



Daily Report

East Asia

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Daily Report

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Japan

Reportage on Trade With U.S. Issues Continues

MITI Chief Expresses Regret

OW3103062690 Tokyo KYODO in English 0606 GMT
31 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 31 (KYODO)—International Trade and Industry Minister Kabun Muto expressed regret Saturday over charges made by the United States that Japan is engaging in unfair trading practices involving eight categories, including rice and semiconductors. Muto said in a statement that the United States "did not understand the fact that Japan has tried to make its markets free and open" despite rounds of bilateral government talks, including those under the Structural Impediments Initiative (SII).

Muto urged Washington to use caution in acting on the charges, saying that, "making a decision unilaterally without enough dialogue with trading partners would have negative effects on the multilateral system of free trade." The statement came in response to a U.S. report on foreign trade barriers in which the U.S. trade representative's office singled out Japan as a nation with trade barriers in eight areas.

The reports serve as a basis for U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills to map out a list of priority countries and practices that could be subject to trade retaliation under the so-called 301 clause of the 1988 trade act.

Business leaders, meanwhile, showed mixed reaction to the U.S. report.

Rokuro Ishikawa, president of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, called the U.S. charges "expected to some extent" and urged the government to react calmly. "Japan, for its part, should scrutinize the areas in question as early as possible and insist on what it must say and correct what it must do," Ishikawa said.

But Takashi Ishihara, president of the Japan Association of Corporate Executives, or Keizai Doyukai, voiced doubts about amorphous metals being included in the 35 items allegedly subject to trade barriers. "Some items about which only one U.S. company has complained is included in the list" of Japanese trade barriers cited in the report, Ishihara said. Ishihara called for straightforward private-level talks between Japan and the United States to settle bilateral disputes instead of bringing every contention into government-level talks.

As the U.S. report came out just days before Tokyo and Washington are to hold the next round of SII talks, Ishihara stressed the need for Japan to take a positive stance in meeting U.S. demands made in the SII talks to date. "To thwart U.S. trade sanctions, Japan needs to tackle the next SII talks in as positive a manner as it can," he said.

Kaifu Makes 'Last-Ditch' Efforts

OW0104114290 Tokyo KYODO in English 1100 GMT
1 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 1 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu continued his last-ditch efforts Sunday to finalize Japan's position in the fourth round of Structural Impediments Initiative (SII) talks with the United States this week in Washington. The government and the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) will finalize Japan's stance in a meeting among Kaifu and top LDP executives on Monday. Negotiators from the two countries will meet in the U.S. capital Monday and Tuesday.

Kaifu discussed the issue with Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama, International Trade and Industry Minister Kabun Muto, and Ichiro Ozawa, LDP secretary general, from Saturday night to early Sunday morning. On Sunday Kaifu called Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Nobuo Ishihara and Tatsuo Arima, chief of the Cabinet Councillors' Office on External Affairs, to his official residence to discuss Japan's response to U.S. demands on removing of structural impediments to trade and investment.

The government has decided to revise Japan's Large-Scale Retail Stores Law, which protects small shopowners, in fiscal 1992 to make large-scale retail stores easier to open, government sources said.

Pending the revision, the government will shorten the period from the application to the opening of a store to a maximum of one year instead of the current 10 years or more, the sources said.

The government also plans to exempt stores to be opened in big cities from the law, the sources said. The United States has demanded that the law be abolished. Small shopowners, a major support base for the LDP, want the law maintained.

Japan will also promise the United States that it will draw up a new five-year public project investment program to boost its public works expenditures, succeeding the current five-year program which expires in fiscal 1990, the sources said.

Washington has demanded that Japan set aside at least 10 percent of its gross national product (GNP) for public works spending. At present, public investment represents about 6.7 percent of GNP in Japan.

Kaifu, Bush See Progress

OW0204142690 Tokyo KYODO in English 1403 GMT
2 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 2 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and President George Bush agreed Monday they have made progress toward resolving outstanding trade issues since their summit meeting a month ago, and said they hoped for further advances in an interim report due soon on structural barriers to trade. In a 15-minute phone call to Bush placed hours

before the fourth round of Structural Impediments Initiative (SII) talks were scheduled to start in Washington. Kaifu said he expects that efforts made by the two countries will yield "sufficient results" in the interim report on SII, a government official said.

Kaifu noted that since the two leaders met in Palm Springs last month, his cabinet and the ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] have done their utmost to resolve disputes over items such as supercomputers, satellites, wood products, and telecommunications. In recent weeks the United States and Japan have reached tentative agreements on supercomputers, satellites and telecommunications.

"On structural negotiations, I have been talking with LDP executives and making my biggest possible effort to compile Japan's interim draft proposal," Kaifu was quoted as telling Bush. He said that he has dispatched former ambassador to the United States Nobuo Matsunaga to Washington to explain his ideas on the matter.

Bush said he was pleased with the progress made on the individual sectoral talks, according to the official. "I strongly hope that we can have a good mid-term report on the structural impediments problem," he was quoted as saying.

Bush said that, schedule permitting, he hopes to meet personally with Matsunaga. Matsunaga left for the United States Monday with a personal letter for Bush. He is expected to meet with government officials and congressional leaders during his trip, aimed at gaining U.S. support for Japan's draft proposal on the SII interim report.

The two sides are expected to produce the report shortly after the conclusion of the fourth round of talks, scheduled for Tuesday.

Official Reacts to Charges

OW0204114990 Tokyo KYODO in English 1058 GMT
2 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 2 KYODO—A senior government official reacted calmly Monday to a U.S. Government report citing Japan's ban on rice imports as unfair, calling the latest U.S. comments on rice less harsh than in the past. "The language used in the report over rice appears to have toned down from last year's report," said Hirohisa Tanaka, vice minister of agriculture, fisheries and forestry.

Tanaka made the remarks at a press meeting in response to the annual report released Friday by the U.S. Trade Representative on foreign trade barriers, in which it singled out Japan as maintaining unfair trade practices over 35 items including rice and fruits.

The USTR, in the 1990 National Trade Estimates Report, refers to Japan's rice policy in a fact-tracking manner, but does not use any words taken to put pressure on Tokyo to alter the policy. But Tanaka called

for caution in dealing with the rice issue and pointed to the possibility that Washington will take a tougher stance on the rice issue at the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

"Considering the U.S. report in the other way, I have an impression that the United States is pinning greater hopes on the Uruguay Round of trade talks under GATT to settle the rice issue," he said. But Tanaka lashed out at U.S. unfair trade charges over Japan's fruit market. "They are apparently based on misunderstanding of the fact. They feel strange to me," Tanaka said.

As for fruits, the report claims that Japan's import policy on apples, cherries, peaches and some others hinder imports of these fruits.

U.S. Lists Latest Demands

OW0304002090 Tokyo KYODO in English 2341 GMT
2 Apr 90

[By Shiro Yoneyama]

[Text] Washington, April 2 KYODO—The United States drew up a latest list of demands for structural changes in the Japanese economy as the two countries started a two-day meeting Monday to produce a mid-term report on their structural impediments initiative (SII). The list calls for boosting Japan's public works spending to 10 percent of the nation's gross national product (GNP) in three to five years from the current 6.7 percent. Japan has rejected the demand.

In addition, the U.S. has suggested to Japan that it make a better use of its land, end exclusionary business practices and make consumer credits more readily available by opening automatic cash dispensers 24 hours a day and taking other remedial steps.

In a related development, Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu telephoned President George Bush early Monday (Washington Time), telling him he was dispatching his special envoy Nobuo Matsunaga to explain his "thinking" on the SII dialogue.

Matsunaga, a former ambassador to the U.S., met with Secretary of State James Baker and Bush's National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft shortly after his arrival here. Matsunaga said he is carrying a letter from Kaifu to Bush whom he will meet at the White House on Wednesday.

The U.S. also demands as part of the SII exercise that Japan improve its infrastructure, ease its trucking industry regulations, dismantle its Large-Scale Retail Stores Law and promote imports, according to the list of nearly 200 American suggestions.

A copy of the document was made available to KYODO news service.

Other U.S. "suggestions" include dropping the screening requirements for foreign investment except for

national security interest and simplifying the distribution system, which has kept the prices of both domestic and imported goods extremely high, as compared to those in other industrialized countries.

At the outset of the two-day plenary session at the State Department, Undersecretary of State for Economic Affairs Richard McCormack acknowledged that SII, which is aimed at removing structural barriers to trade and investment in both economies, is "quite a challenge."

"Now, here at our fourth plenary meeting," he said, "we face the task of putting down on paper for the world to see the measures each of us will take to address the structural problems we have identified."

"We will soon know their judgment—whether we have met the challenge—whether we have taken full advantage of the opportunity," McCormack told the 64-member strong Japanese delegation.

"Even more daunting is the judgment that history will make of our efforts," he went on. "For regardless of what we decide, it will be historic. This may be our best chance to address the economic problems that have plagued us. We must not let history judge that we missed our chance."

Chief Japanese spokesman Taizo Watanabe told reporters the SII dialogue is an unprecedented undertaking between two economic powers. He hinted that the two countries may release a midterm report at the end of the fourth plenary session on Tuesday or Wednesday as some U.S. officials have suggested.

Watanabe, the chief spokesman, repeatedly emphasized a high degree of "interdependence" between the Japanese and American economies. He said at the packed press conference the Japanese have made their "utmost efforts to show all the cards in our hands" during two days of talks here.

The two countries launched SII last July amid growing animosity between the two allies and economic rivals over the stubborn trade imbalance and a surge in Japanese investment in the U.S.

In return for the U.S. suggestions, the Japanese Government has recommended steps to make the American economy more competitive. These measures include increasing the nation's savings rate, improving the work force and education system, changing short-term corporate behaviors and switching them.

Watanabe asserted that Japan's trade surplus with the U.S., its largest trading partner, fell to 44.9 billion dollars in 1989 from an all-time high of 52.1 billion dollars in 1987. The U.S. Commerce Department has put the U.S. trade gap with Japan last year at 49.0 billion dollars.

"There is a certain amount of frustration" in Japan about America's alleged "high-handed approach" toward SII, Watanabe said, adding, "there is certainly a

communications problem" between the two countries. The chief spokesman, for example, insisted that SII is not negotiation while U.S. officials argued that they anticipate results from the dialogue to help bring about change in the Japanese economy.

Despite growing expectations here about the SII dialogue, McCormack cautioned, "In some areas we may not be able to identify fully the ultimate solutions to existing impediments."

But the chief U.S. delegate vowed to fight against "special interest groups in both countries" which he said are trying to block progress in the SII talks. "We must reject this special pleading and choose to support the general interest in removing impediments in our economies," McCormack added.

Store Law Exemption Proposal

OW0204113890 Tokyo KYODO in English 1121 GMT
2 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 2 KYODO—Japan will propose exempting big cities like Tokyo and Osaka from the law that restricts the operations of large retail stores in the latest round of trade talks with the U.S. soon to start in Washington, government sources said Monday. The proposal came at the eleventh-hour after Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu reached a consensus among the government and the ruling Liberal Democratic Party over what cards to put on the negotiating table for the fourth round of Structural Impediments Initiative (SII) talks.

The government will promise to scrap the restrictions imposed by the Large-Scale Retail Stores Law on such stores in big cities in 1992, according to the sources. Japan will also pledge to shorten the time required to approve the opening of large stores to less than two years until 1992, the sources said.

The law has been a bone of contention in the SII talks, which are aimed at removing Japan's internal barriers to trade and investments. The U.S. side has been demanding that the law be repealed to improve foreign access to the Japanese market.

The government's decision to make the law virtually defunct in large cities was made in the face of strong opposition to such revisions from LDP Diet members who fear the loss of support from small shop owners.

The government's draft proposal also includes boosting Japan's public works spending substantially, the sources said. The government will make the increase clear by the time a final report on SII talks is scheduled to be released in July, they said. The U.S. has been urging Japan to increase its public works spending to 10 percent of its gross national product from the current 6.7 percent.

Japanese and U.S. negotiators are expected to produce an interim report on the talks immediately after the meetings on Monday and Tuesday.

These proposals were finally fashioned in a meeting on Monday among Kaifu and top LDP officials including Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa, Sakamoto, and Toshio Yamaguchi, chairman of the LDP's ad hoc committee on the talks.

In a hastily-prepared attempt to gain a nod of approval from Washington, the government has sent Nobuo Matsunaga, former ambassador to the U.S., as a special envoy. Matsunaga is scheduled to meet with U.S. Government officials and congressional leaders to seek understanding for Japan's draft proposal, the sources said.

Meanwhile, LDP senior politicians earlier held talks to cement a party consensus on the proposals. Former Secretary General Shintaro Abe met former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, who heads the largest faction in the party, to hammer out the details of the proposals.

Kaifu is expected to speak with U.S. President George Bush on the phone Monday night to seek his support for Japan's latest initiative.

A top Foreign Ministry source, commenting on Japan's SII proposals, expressed hope that the U.S. Government will understand the Japanese side has made its "best efforts" to avert a breakup of bilateral relations.

While acknowledging that the U.S. Government is unlikely to be 100 percent satisfied with Japan's proposals, the source said the talks would determine whether they get a "passing score." He said a passing score in Japanese schools is a 60, but added that the two sides should press for the highest score possible above that.

A senior official of the Finance Ministry expressed confidence that the government decision on public works spending will pass muster with the U.S. Government. "I believe the contents in the bag of our missions to Washington will bring about a settlement," the official said.

First Day Yields 'Few Results'

*OW0304034790 Tokyo KYODO in English 0323 GMT
3 Apr 90*

[By Shiro Yoneyama]

[Text] Washington, April 2 KYODO—Japan and the United States opened two days of high-level talks Monday on structural obstacles to bilateral trade but the first day yielded few results, officials said. Preliminary indications from officials of both countries as of Monday night were that there was little progress in the fourth formal meeting of the so-called structural impediments initiative (SII) talks.

A senior U.S. official said both sides still have much work ahead before reaching agreement on an interim report on SII aimed at removing structural barriers to

trade and investment. The official said Tokyo and Washington hope to use the two-day session at the State Department to produce a "meaningful" progress report which will be followed by a final report in July at the end of yearlong SII dialogue.

In a related move, Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu's special envoy Nobuo Matsunaga met with Secretary of State James Baker and President George Bush's National Security Affairs Adviser Brent Scowcroft Monday afternoon. Japanese officials said Matsunaga, who was ambassador to the U.S. until last December, was instructed to support the 64-member Japanese delegation to the SII meeting as Kaifu's personal emissary.

Matsunaga, accompanied by Deputy Foreign Minister Hisashi Owada, is expected to call on Bush on Wednesday, officials said. Matsunaga is carrying a letter from Kaifu to Bush, Japanese officials said. Kaifu telephoned Bush Monday morning to reaffirm his resolve to make SII a success, Japanese officials said.

At the Monday morning plenary session Undersecretary of State Richard McCormack described SII as being "quite a challenge" for Tokyo and Washington. "We face the task of putting down on paper for the world to see the measures each of us will take to address the structural problems we have identified," he said, vowing, "this will be an intense two days."

Japanese officials said Japan told the closed-door session it is determined to produce the interim report in the course of the meeting, the fourth in a series of formal SII talks since last September.

According to the latest list of U.S. demands made available to KYODO News Service, the U.S. is asking Japan to hike its annual public works spending to 10 percent of its gross national product (GNP) from the current level of 6.7 percent. The list also seeks Japanese study on joint Japan-U.S. city and commerce redevelopment projects and greater access to the Japanese construction market for U.S. firms.

In addition, the U.S. is calling on Japan to rescind its Large Retail Stores Law, make the actions of the Fair Trade Commission open, and weaken the interlocking business groupings to accommodate the entry into Japan of foreign concerns. Specifically, the U.S. wants Japanese banks to limit the holding of other firms' stock to 2 percent from the current 5 percent, according to the document.

Additionally, the U.S. is also asking Japan to discourage or ban general trading companies from owning the stocks of manufacturing concerns, according to the document, which lists nearly 200 specific suggestions.

Meanwhile, another group of Japanese and U.S. trade officials met Monday to settle a dispute over satellites, one of three areas where the U.S. says Japan maintains barriers to foreign entrants.

Asked at a briefing whether or not the ongoing SII talks were making progress, a senior U.S. Administration official said, "It is significant, but we are not finished." He said the U.S. and Japan will try to work on establishing a "monitoring system" and an "implementation procedure."

"The first measure of success will be how well the ideas and suggestions are implemented," the American official said, speaking on condition he not be identified. He said, however, the U.S. does not consider a timetable for correcting the trade imbalance a good idea.

"A serious good interim report will demonstrate that this process works," the official said. "But the ultimate measure is what is delivered at the end."

After the morning session and lunch, Japanese officials briefed their American counterparts on ways to address Japan's savings and investment imbalance, land-use policies and distribution system.

Muto Hints No More Concessions

OW0304015390 Tokyo KYODO in English 0130 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 3 KYODO—International Trade and Industry Minister Kabun Muto suggested Tuesday that the government will make no further concessions over ongoing trade talks with the United States. He said he firmly believes the government draft proposals for the structural impediments initiative [SII] talks finalized late Monday will meet with the approval of the U.S., and is not planning any further changes to make them more appealing to the U.S.

"I think our proposals are a product of the best possible efforts (on the part of the government), and we are not thinking about anything more," Muto said in a regular press conference following a cabinet meeting.

Answering questions on MITI's [Ministry of International Trade and Industry's] stand on the proposals, Muto said the ministry gave top priority to Japanese consumer interests in drawing up the draft.

The government also had to consider the interests of small shop owners, as well as overall Japan-U.S. ties in view of Japan's more cooperative relations with the rest of the world, he said.

Talks Said To Start Smoothly

OW0304064790 Tokyo KYODO in English 0606 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 3 KYODO—Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama said Tuesday that the fourth round of structural impediment initiative (SII) talks in Washington has started smoothly. Nakayama told reporters after a cabinet meeting that the Japanese side was explaining its draft proposals for an interim SII report finalized late Monday and the United States will express its opinion on Japan's plan later.

In a separate press conference, International Trade and Industry Minister Kabun Muto suggested that Japan will make no further concessions in the talks with the United States. Muto said Japan's draft proposals will meet with the approval of the U.S., and the government is not planning any further changes to make them more appealing.

"I think our proposals are a product of the best possible efforts, and we are not thinking about anything more," Muto said.

Ichiro Ozawa, secretary general of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), told business leaders Tuesday that the government and the LDP will uphold the interests of both Japan and the U.S., of Japan's consumers and Japan's future leadership in the international community during the current talks.

Rokuro Ishikawa, president of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Trade, said it is unclear how much the revision of the Large-Scale Retail Stores Law, which the U.S. wants scrapped, would contribute to reducing Japan's trade surplus with the U.S., and that it may cause unfavorable repercussions in Japan.

Eiji Suzuki, president of the Japan Federation of Employers' Associations, said, "It is important to curb the growing anti-Japan feeling in the U.S. and persuade the U.S. Congress. At the same time, we must consider how to improve living standards in Japan."

Shigetami Sunada, director general of the Okinawa Development Agency and Hokkaido Development Agency, meanwhile, expressed his dissatisfaction with the process of deciding government draft proposals. Sunada told reporters it was strange that the chief cabinet secretary did not mention the process in Tuesday's cabinet meeting.

U.S. Deficit, Student Exchange Cessation Linked

OW3103062790 Tokyo KYODO in English 0111 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 31 (KYODO)—The U.S. Government will discontinue its support for the Youth for Understanding (YFU) Japanese high school student exchange program, saying the goals of the program have been achieved, a U.S. official message received here Saturday said. This year's group of 47 Japanese high school students bound for the United States will be the YFU program's last, the U.S. notification said. The government said more than 7,000 Japanese students, including the children of Japanese residents of the U.S., are currently attending U.S. high schools most independently of the government-sponsored program.

Government sources in Japan, however, suggest that U.S. efforts to reduce its budget deficit also influenced the decision to halt the YFU program. They said the loss of the only government-sponsored high school student exchange program is regrettable.

The YFU program was initiated in 1984 by then U.S. President Ronald Reagan and former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone to promote better understanding between the two nations. Each September, 47 high school students representing each of Japan's prefectures went to the U.S. to live and study at U.S. schools for one year.

A member of the YFU Japan Association remarked Saturday, "We've heard that because of America's plans to reduce the budget deficit, the (YFU) budget has been cut. We hope to continue with the exchange of high school students with a scholarship program or similar support from private enterprises."

Finance Minister Concerned Over Volatile Market

*OW0204112090 Tokyo KYODO in English 1101 GMT
2 Apr 90*

[Text] Tokyo, April 2 KYODO—Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto expressed grave concern Monday about wild fluctuations in the stock and currency markets. Hashimoto, speaking at a news conference, also voiced regret over market confusion caused by a news report released the same day regarding Japanese institutions' plans for large-scale stock sales in fiscal 1990 that began April 1.

The newspaper report that Japanese life and nonlife insurers have plans to dump their share holdings on a large scale during fiscal 1990 sent the stock and currency market plummeting.

The U.S. dollar soared against the yen by as much as 2.30 yen in Tokyo dealings from Friday's close, finishing at 159.95 yen. And the widely watched 225-issue Nikkei index on the Tokyo Stock Exchange gave up more than 1,900 yen to close slightly above the 28,000 yen line, the sharpest single-day decline on record, since the "Black Monday" crash of 1987.

The foreign exchange market remains under pressure from strong speculative movements, Hashimoto said, despite the fact that Japan's fundamental economic strength remains unchanged. He emphasized that the Bank of Japan will scale up dollar-selling intervention in the market to contain the dollar's present strength.

The finance minister also noted that the currency issue would not be among the major topics at the April 7 meeting in Paris of central bank chiefs and finance ministers from the Group of Seven (G-7) major industrial countries.

Meanwhile, sources at the Finance Ministry expressed optimism that Japan could obtain U.S. understanding on its proposed measures on the expansion of public investment at U.S.-Japan bilateral talks.

The fourth round of the so-called Structural Impediments Initiative talks are to be held in Washington on Monday and Tuesday.

Japanese Banks To Extend Credit Period to PRC

*OW0304125390 Tokyo KYODO in English 1232 GMT
3 Apr 90*

[Text] Tokyo, April 3 (KYODO)—A group of 67 Japanese banks plan to extend the period of a 1.2 billion dollar credit line to China by July next year, enabling China to raise funds of up to that amount anytime by the extended deadline, financial sources said Tuesday. The credit line, part of a 10-year 2 billion dollar credit line given to the Bank of China, China's foreign exchange bank, expires at the end of July, the sources said.

The extension, which came in response to a Chinese request, would help China improve its fund-raising operations because Western commercial banks have suspended new credit to China since Beijing's military suppression of pro-democracy demonstrators in Tiananmen Square last June, the sources said.

The interest is 0.5 to 0.75 percentage point below the average interest China raises funds on capital markets.

The sources said some banks involved in the credit line have been hesitant to extend the favorable conditions as interest rates are rising, but they finally agreed on the extension in the belief that the time is ripe to resume financial support to China.

One source said the Chinese request apparently reflects China's desire to keep access to foreign capital at a time when new lending by Western commercial banks is being suspended.

Interest Shown in Links With NATO, CSCE

*OW0204131390 Tokyo KYODO in English 1227 GMT
2 Apr 90*

[Text] Tokyo, April 2 KYODO—Japan plans to attend discussions to be undertaken in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the Council on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), a top Foreign Ministry source confirmed Monday. The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, also confirmed that Japan will participate in a high-level "trialogue" on political affairs with the U.S. and major Western European countries before the next seven-nation summit meeting is held in Houston on July 9-11.

Referring to an upcoming high-level NATO seminar on global security set for June, the source said Japan's participation would further the promotion of the triologue concept.

Officials noted that Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, in a meeting with NATO General Secretary Manfred Warner in Brussels last January, welcomed a proposal that Japan join NATO in consultative meetings on global security issues of common concern. Japan's delegates to the seminar would most likely be Deputy Foreign Minister Hisashi Owada and several academicians who are experts on security affairs, according to the officials.

The seminar will mark the highest level dialogue of its kind between the two parties, said one official, who added that previous consultations have been conducted "at a rather low level."

The top Foreign Ministry source also confirmed reports that Japan wants to observe various discussions of the CSCE, a forum he said is reshaping the Europe of the future. "We have no illusions about actually becoming a member of the CSCE, as it is a fixed scheme for European issues, but having no contact with CSCE process is not good for Japan," said another ministry official.

On the establishment of a regular vice ministerial "triad" on political issues between Japan, the U.S. and major European countries, the top official noted the proposal was taken up in Kaifu's meeting last month with U.S. President George Bush.

The strengthening of the triangular partnership was also the subject of a meeting on political affairs on March 29 between senior officials of the Japanese Foreign Ministry and the U.S. State Department.

Mongolia

Economic Development Committee Established

OW3103130790 Ulaanbaatar International Service
in English 0810 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] The [word indistinct] UNEN carries the (?treatise) of the Presidium of the People's Great Hural of Mongolia on abolishment of the State Planning and Economic Committee and formation of the State Social and Economic Development Committee of Mongolia. The Presidium of the People's Great Hural has appointed Mr. Dimsurn chairman of the newly formed committee.

New Organization To Revive Traditional Culture

OW0204125490 Ulaanbaatar International Service
in English 1100 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] A new public organization, the House of Genghis Khan, was founded in Mongolia at the initiative of a group of creative workers.

Speaking to newsmen, writer and journalist, president of the organization Dorjadorj said that the nearest task of the organization is to erect a memorial complex to Genghis Khan in Ulaanbaatar and in his native land in northeast Mongolia.

Mr. Dorjadorj also said that his organization will work for revival of national cultural traditions, including the Buddhist religion, consolidation of the national unity, propaganda of Mongolia, and its culture.

Commentary Marks Anniversary of MPRP Foundation

OW0304093190 Ulaanbaatar International Service
in English 0910 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Text] Today, 1 March, marks the 69th foundation anniversary of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party [MPRP], the ruling Marxist party in Mongolia. Here now is a commentary:

The foundation of the MPRP [Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party] is directly linked with the revolutionary influence of the Great October Revolution in Russia. The party was founded basing on two underground revolutionary (?book rooms) in [words indistinct]. On March 1st, 1921, the party held its first congress and adopted its first program. Since, the MPRP played a leading role in people's struggle for freedom and led them to the victory of the people's revolution in July 1921.

Today the MPRP is facing complex problems related with the elimination of the Stalinist heritage. The party has been the initiator of the process of reconstruction and renewal that embraces all spheres of social life in Mongolia. The policy of openness has revealed many social problems which were concealed before. (?You see), also it was the MPRP which pioneered the process of reconstruction in Mongolia, it becomes target of strong criticisms for lagging behind the process of reconstruction.

Today it is imperative to reform the party itself on a more democratic basis, to clearly define its functions within a law-governed state with the people actively participating in decision making processes. The party submitted for discussion [words indistinct] rules and (?proposed to) review the election law. Besides, a new party program and a new constitution are under elaboration. People in Mongolia become politically engaged and strongly wish the renewal success.

We are witnessing today the birth of the political pluralism in Mongolia. In late February there was proclaimed the foundation of the Mongolian Democratic Party which will eventually be followed by other associations and movements. And under these conditions the ruling MPRP faces new responsibility. In order to keep its political leadership the MPRP searches for ways of reform so as to be able to meet present day demands.

Two days ago, the Politburo of the MPRP Central Committee decided to discuss at its forthcoming meeting the issues of abolishing the constitution article on the leading role of the MPRP in Mongolian society and convening an extraordinary congress of the MPRP.

General Secretary and President Batmonh has said that the MPRP will strive to assert its leading role in society only through deeds. Today the party is analyzing its past and is learning lessons from it so as to be able to carry out the process of reconstruction, and there is no doubt that the people will contribute to this cause by their concrete deeds.

North Korea**Foreign Ministry Condemns Rimpac Exercise**

*SK0204100990 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
0800 GMT 2 Apr 90*

[Press Statement by spokesman of the DPRK Ministry of Foreign affairs issued in connection with the Rimpac-90 multinational military exercise—read by announcer]

[Text] Press statement by spokesman of the DPRK Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

The United States, following the Team Spirit-90 joint military exercise staged on the Korean peninsula, has started staging a multinational military exercise code-named Rimpac-90 in the Pacific, beginning on 2 April. As has been known to the world, the Rimpac joint military exercise, which has been staged every year since 1971 under the initiative of the United States, is a war exercise in Asia and the Pacific designed to control and attack socialist countries, including our country. The Rimpac-90 joint military exercise, which will be staged for nearly two months, will be participated in by scores of naval ships, hundreds of airplanes, and scores of thousands of military troops from many countries.

What we cannot overlook in connection with the Rimpac military exercise this time is the fact that the United States has dragged the South Korean puppets into this war exercise. According to the directive of their boss, the persons in authority of South Korea have sent their naval armed forces to the Pacific.

That the United States has dragged the South Korean puppets into the Rimpac-90 joint military exercise this time is intended to further perfect the triangular military alliance system among the United States, Japan, and South Korea, which has already been set in operation, through the implementation of military operations in an atmosphere of actual war. The United States has long sought a strategy to establish domination and control over Asia and the Pacific with Washington, Tokyo, and Seoul as its main axis.

The United States, which has fostered Japan's Self-Defense Forces' operational capability to the extent that it is capable of taking charge of the area outside the radius of 1,000 miles, is attempting to further perfect its joint operational capability by mobilizing even South Korea into a military exercise in which the United States and Japan participate together.

In particular, the graveness of the situation is that no one can guarantee that today, at a time when the main arrow of the Asian and Pacific strategy of the United States has been directed toward the Korean peninsula, the United States, Japan, and South Korea will not commit their armed forces participating in the Rimpac-90 joint military exercise into the Korean peninsula at any moment.

The Rimpac joint military exercise has been staged for nearly 20 years and the successive persons in authority of

South Korea in the past have not dared to make the decision to participate in this exercise in which Japan, the war criminal, has participated every year. However, the present persons in authority of South Korea have participated in this exercise without hesitation.

This clearly shows that they are not only the errand boys who have gotten into a habit of implementing the U.S. policy of aggression, but they are also the faithful cat's paws of the United States and Japan. The persons in authority of South Korea, under the pretext of the so-called northern policy, have actively participated in the U.S. war strategy against socialism politically, economically, and even militarily.

Having handed the puppet armed forces, which comprise nearly 1 million men and up-to-date military equipment, over to the United States for the implementation of its Asian and Pacific strategy, the persons in authority of South Korea—those people who participated in the U.S. imperialists' war of aggression against Vietnam and demonstrated their evil reputation there through scorched-earth operations—have now entered the stage of unscrupulously waging military operations against socialist countries, including the northern half of our Republic.

By being deeply involved in the U.S. war strategy against socialism, the persons in authority of South Korea have revealed that the so-called improvement of relations with socialist countries that they have waged under the signboard of the northern policy is nothing but a deceptive drama. The United States should renounce their criminal maneuvers to drive the South Korean puppets into the implementation of their war strategy against socialism.

We appeal to the people of Asian and Pacific countries, as well as all the peace-loving people of the world, to pay due attention to the Rimpac-90 joint military exercise which threatens peace and stability in Asia and the Pacific.

[Dated] 2 April 1990, Pyongyang

U.S. Stages 'Bomb-Dropping Exercise' in South

*SK0204220190 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1518 GMT
2 Apr 90*

[Text] Pyongyang April 2 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets have got more frantic in war exercises against the North on the ground and in the sky as part of the provocative "Team Spirit 90" joint military manoeuvres, according to military sources.

The U.S. imperialists today brought into South Korea several formations of "F-15" fighter-bombers belonging to the Fifth Air Force from their Kadena base, Okinawa, and made them hysterically stage another provocative live bomb dropping exercise aimed at forestalling strikes at targets in the depth and inland areas of the northern

half of Korea in the "event of contingency" in coordination with "F-16" fighter-bombers belonging to the Seventh Air Force occupying South Korea.

They hurled several formations of Pacific-based "F-15" and "F-16" fighter-bombers and formations of "A-4" and "A-6" assault planes, and pursuit-assault planes and refueling tanks into the air above South Korea in a planned way from March 28 to 31 for aerial strike exercises against the northern half of Korea.

On March 28 several formations of "F-16" fighter-bombers of the airforce of the U.S. imperialist aggressors stationed in South Korea staged a frantic aerial war exercise simulating a surprise strike at the northern half of the country.

And the South Korean puppets brought infantry and motorised units of the puppet army to the area adjacent to the Military Demarcation Line and openly staged day and night a mock attack on the North from March 28 to April 1.

Such never-ceasing military provocations of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets clearly show that, though they are paying lip-service to "dialogue" and "unification," they are, in actuality, seeking confrontation and war only.

Daily Denounces U.S. Plan To 'Invade' North

*SK0304054090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0453 GMT
3 April 90*

[Text] Pyongyang April 3 (KCNA)—The U.S. ruling quarters talk noisily that they want "detente" and "peace" on the Korean peninsula, but it is a sophism to conceal their intention to invade the North, says NODONG SINMUN in a commentary today.

Recalling U.S. Defence Secretary Cheney's utterances that, if there is a place on the globe where disputes might be expanded into a war at present, it is the Korean peninsula and that the U.S. forces "must not be withdrawn" from South Korea, the news analyst says:

If the United States truly wants peace on the Korean peninsula, it must withdraw first of all its troops and nuclear weapons, the main factor of mounting tensions, from South Korea.

But, the U.S. ruling quarters are trying to avoid this with a "cutback" of the U.S. troops.

The Pentagon's "cutback" program is, in essence, a camouflaged "arms buildup" program intended to improve the "quality and capacity" of the U.S. combat units present in South Korea.

The U.S. imperialists are now pulling part of their armed forces out of other areas of the world under the motto of "detente." But they are massively reinforcing their aggression forces in the southern part of the Korean peninsula. If the U.S. ruling quarters truly want

"detente" and "peace" on the Korean peninsula as they say, why do they keep their troops in South Korea and mass means of war there? They are needed for a war, not for peace, and needed for a surprise forestalling strike against our Republic.

In accelerating the arms buildup in South Korea, refusing to leave there, the U.S. imperialists seek to ignite a war against the North with the Korean peninsula as a theatre of showdown of strength and spread its flames to other areas, and thus realize their Asia-Pacific strategy and anti-socialist strategy.

The hypocritical acts of the United States will only invite criticism and denunciation from the world's people.

U.S. Attempting To Turn Cuba From Socialism

*SK0204113090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1100 GMT
2 Apr 90*

[Text] Pyongyang April 2 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists have recently started an anti-Cuba TV program, while massing their aggression forces.

This is an unpardonable violation of the sovereignty and dignity of socialist Cuba and a shameless intervention, says NODONG SINMUN today in a signed article analysing anti-Cuba moves of the U.S. imperialists.

The U.S. imperialists, feeling uneasy in the ever increasing might and revolutionary influence of socialist Cuba, are viciously scheming to prevent it and deflect Cuba from the road of socialism, the article notes, and goes on:

Notably, the Yankees are posing increasing military threat to Cuba, talking about their direct intervention in her.

They are now resorting to military provocations menacing Cuba by sending an aircraft carrier and cruiser to Guantanamo and committed an armed attack on a Cuba-flagged vessel on the high sea. And U.S. pirates are more frequently staging military manoeuvres near the territorial waters of Cuba.

The recently intensified adventurous military row of the U.S. imperialists tells that they have not given up their wild ambition to control Cuba by strength.

Meanwhile, the United States is obstinately resorting to the moves to disorganise Cuba from within. The ideological and cultural infiltration and smear campaign are the main points of the U.S. imperialists' anti-Cuban policy at present.

They are trying to isolate Cuba internationally by slandering and slinging mud at her with preposterous lies.

The ever intensified anti-Cuba radio broadcasting and the start of the "Marti TV program" are the main link in the chains of the anti-Cuban ideological and cultural offensive and harassing operations of the U.S. imperialists.

The U.S. imperialists seek in their ideological harassing tactics and smear propaganda to disorganise Cuba from within and divide her and degenerate the Cuban people ideologically and politically so as to establish without difficulties the American order in the "island of freedom."

The anti-Cuban campaign of the U.S. imperialists remind people of the move on the eve of their invasion into Panama.

But, the scheme of the U.S. imperialists to establish the American order in socialist Cuba is a daydream.

Firm and unshakable are the faith and will of the Cuban people as seen in the slogan "socialism or death, we will win."

The U.S. imperialists must take their hands of aggression and intervention off Cuba.

DLP 'Scheming' To Bring Chon Back to Seoul

*SK0304054490 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0447 GMT
3 Apr 90*

[Text] Pyongyang April 3 (KCNA)—The "new mega party" of South Korea is scheming to bring the traitor Chon Tu-hwan, a human butcher and chieftain of "irregularities and corruption of the Fifth Republic," back to Seoul. Commenting on this, a signed commentary of NODONG SINMUN says:

The drama of the "liquidation of the Fifth Republic legacies" so loudly advertised by the traitor No Tae-u is going to drop its curtain with the return of Chon Tu-hwan and his wife to Seoul, unpunished.

This means that the "Sixth Republic" of the traitor No is the same dictatorial regime as the blood-stained "Fifth Republic" of the traitor Chon.

The return of Chon to Seoul has been planned from long ago.

The point is why the traitor Chon is hastening his return to Seoul at this juncture. The puppets had planned to bring the traitor Chon to Seoul in July to "avoid a politically complicated period," but they moved up the time for Chon's transfer to April.

The No Tae-u group considers that it is free to commit any arbitrariness as it has framed up the "mega ruling party" through the three party merger in league with Kim Yong-sam and Kim Chong-pil and gained a majority in the "National Assembly."

This is a mockery of and a challenge to the demand of the popular masses for "liquidating the Fifth Republic legacies" by punishing the traitor Chon, the chieftain of the Kwangju massacre and main culprit in the "irregularities of the Fifth Republic," and his accomplices.

Facts reveal that the "regime" of the "Democratic Liberal Party" [DLP], the "new mega party," an offspring of

the "political restructuring" of the No Tae-u, Kim Yong-sam and Kim Chong-pil groups, is just the same in nature as the "regime of the Democratic Justice Party" and it is a military fascist dictatorial "regime" that succeeded the "Fifth Republic."

The criminal act of the traitor No and company that commit arbitrariness with the one party solo of "DLP," remaining deaf to the demand of the South Korean people for independence, democracy and reunification, will end in failure, running into popular resistance.

WPK Sends Greetings to Japan Socialist Party

*SK0304052490 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0511 GMT
3 Apr 90*

[Text] Pyongyang April 3 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] today sent a message of greetings to the 55th regular national convention of the Japan Socialist Party [JSP].

The message says the JSP has powerfully struggled for defence of the vital rights and interests of the Japanese people and for peace against war.

Noting that the JSP enjoys support from Japanese people of wider strata day by day for its just cause and vigorous struggle for its accomplishment, the message says: This was fully illustrated by the JSP's great victory in the elections to both houses held last year and this year.

The WPK which has always supported and encouraged the just struggle of the JSP, it says, sincerely rejoices at all the successes achieved by it.

Expressing the belief that the excellent relations of friendship and cooperation existing between the two parties will as ever favourably develop in line with the idea of independence, friendship and peace, the message sincerely wishes the JSP big success in the work of the convention and in the future activities for implementing its decisions.

Economic Affairs Minister Departs for Congo

*SK0204120490 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1114 GMT
2 Apr 90*

[Text] Pyongyang April 2 (KCNA)—A government economic delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea led by Chong Song-nam, minister of external economic affairs, left here on April 2 by plane for a visit to the Congo.

Congolese President Cited on Korean Issues

*SK0104082890 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0803 GMT
1 Apr 90*

[Text] Pyongyang April 1 (KCNA)—The Congolese people have always supported the struggle of the Korean people for the reunification of the country and there will be no change in such a stand in the future, too, said Congolese President

Denis Sassou-Nguesso when he met with the DPRK Government delegation headed by Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam on March 28.

He supported the idea on North-South cooperation clarified by Comrade President Kim Il-song.

He referred to the favourable development of the friendly and cooperative relations between the Congo and Korea.

Kim Yong-yong Meets With Cape Verde Officials

Confers With President Pereira

*SK0204052890 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0516 GMT
2 Apr 90*

[Text] Pyongyang April 2 (KCNA)—We extend support to the efforts of the government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and its people for admission into the United Nations as a unified state, said Cape Verde President Aristides Pereira when he met the DPRK Foreign Ministry delegation led by its Vice-Minister Kim Yong-yong on March 28.

We support the new proposal for national reunification advanced by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song in his New Year address and extend support to the DPRK Government and the Korean people in the struggle to solve the question of national reunification in a peaceful way by their own efforts free from any outside interference, he said.

Prime Minister Supports Unity

*SK0304044090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0429 GMT
3 Apr 90*

[Text] Pyongyang April 3 (KCNA)—The Government of Cape Verde will make all its efforts helpful for Korea's reunification, said Cape Verde Prime Minister Pedro Verona Rodrigues Pires when he met the DPRK Foreign Ministry delegation led by its Vice-Minister Kim Yong-yong on March 28.

He expressed full support for the proposals advanced by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song for Korea's reunification and all the initiatives of the DPRK Government for their realization.

Mozambique Supports Korean Unification Proposal

*SK0204110890 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1032 GMT
2 Apr 90*

[Text] Pyongyang April 2 (KCNA)—The proposal to found the democratic confederal republic of Koryo advanced by President Kim Il-song is a just reunification proposal for a smooth solution to the Korean reunification problem under the conditions in which different ideologies and systems exist in the North and the South.

Mozambican President Joaquim Alberto Chissano stressed this when he met the DPRK ambassador to his country on March 28.

Korea should be reunified without fail, he said.

Noting that the new national reunification proposal put forward by President Kim Il-song in his New Year address for this year is a most realistic and just reunification proposal, the president said that the Mozambican party and government fully support this proposal.

Vice President Pak Receives New GDR Envoy

*SK0204121990 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1125 GMT
2 Apr 90*

[Text] Pyongyang April 2 (KCNA)—Vice-President Pak Song-chol today was presented with credentials by Klaus Zorn, newly-appointed ambassador e.p. [extraordinary and plenipotentiary] of the German Democratic Republic accredited to Korea.

Present at the presentation ceremony was Li In-kyu, vice-minister of foreign affairs.

International Journalists Arrive for Conference

*SK3003111490 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1055 GMT
30 Mar 90*

[Text] Pyongyang March 30 (KCNA)—A delegation of the Chinese Institute of International Affairs headed by its president, Wang Shu, and Abdullah Shadan, first vice-president of the Central Committee of the Union of Journalists of Afghanistan, and Orlando Bernardino Gonzalves, director of the Portuguese paper NOTICIAS DA AMADORA, to participate in the international course of journalists to be held in Pyongyang arrived here today.

Nakwon Constituency Sends Letter to Kim Il-song

*SK0204104790 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1000 GMT
2 Apr 90*

[Text] Pyongyang April 2 (KCNA)—A letter to the great leader President Kim Il-song was adopted at the meeting of voters of Nakwon constituency No. 205 which was held Sunday with a large attendance to nominate a candidate of deputy to the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly.

The letter says:

To make a dynamic advance for the accomplishment of the revolutionary cause of chuche always under you the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song in the van of our revolution is the firm conviction and will which have rooted deep in the hearts of the Korean people of many generations on the arduous and glorious road of the revolution from the first generation of our revolution who rallied themselves under the banner of the "down-with-imperialism union" in the early days of the revolution, to the rising generations of the workers' party era.

Our people had once undergone a long bloody history of sufferings. But after they proclaimed you respected Comrade Kim Il-song as the sun of the nation and the great leader, they found a correct path of the revolution, entered the road of the national resurrection and carried out successfully the worthwhile struggle for independence, sovereignty and socialism.

As you the great leader founded the DPRK, our people became the dignified master of an independent sovereign state and a powerful and proud people who shape their destiny independently and creatively with power in their hands.

You the great leader indicated the unique road of the socialist revolution and construction and, by wisely leading the DPRK Government and our people, built in the shortest time ever in history a most advanced socialist system in this land where exploitation and oppression, age-old backwardness and poverty held sway in the past, and have turned out country into a socialist country, independent, self-supporting and self-reliant in national defense, with political sovereignty, a strong independent national economy, brilliant national culture and powerful defense capability.

In our country today, the entire people actively participate in state political life, fully exercise their independent rights, are provided by the state with all material and cultural conditions for food, clothing and housing and stable jobs and lead a happy life enjoying benefits granted by the state and society such as benefits granted by the state and society such as free education and free medical service.

All people enjoy a dignified and worthwhile political life, a sound and rich culture life and an equal and stable material life as dignified members of socio-political organizations free from all social evils and inequality. This is a true socialist life for our people under the care of the DPRK which was founded and led by you the great leader.

Our Republic is indeed a genuine people's state where all people add shine to their precious life with creative struggle, closely united with revolutionary sense of obligation and comradeship under the best man-centred socialist system which makes everything serve the working masses and a powerful socialist country where the leader, the party and the masses, united as one socio-politic organism, are promoting the advance of the revolution and victoriously marching toward a bright future with the strength of single-hearted unity.

Our people keenly realized through their experiences that our socialist system, chosen, built and run by themselves, is a most popular system which firmly guarantees the masses the position of master of the state and society and a superior and viable system which enables the masses to give full play to their inexhaustible creativity.

Our motherland is shining as a country under the best socialist system embodying the chuche idea and a powerful socialist state with dignity and might no one dare to provoke. This historical change is an immortal exploit performed by you the great leader which will be recorded in the history of the nation.

In Nakwon, along with the DPRK developing and prospering under the wise guidance of the party and the leader, a new history of proud creation and change has been created and the happy life of the working class and other working people is in full bloom.

As our labor and life get worthier and happier, we extend boundless thanks to you the great leader who established and have led our Republic, the true maternal bosom and cradle of happiness for our people, and harden our loyal determination to fight to the end for the prosperity and development of the DPRK only along the road indicated by you the fatherly leader.

With this loyalty and trust that grow deeper and more intense with the passage of time, we decided to nominate you the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song as candidate of our Nakwon constituency for deputy to the Supreme People's Assembly at this significant meeting of voters today amid full support and enthusiastic applause of the entire participants.

We sincerely and earnestly ask you the great leader to accept this ardent request reflecting the unanimous desire of our working class and people.

Newspaper Outlines Kim Il-song's Qualifications

*SK0204105890 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1014 GMT
2 Apr 90*

[Text] Pyongyang April 2 (KCNA)—The entire participants in the voters' meeting of the Nakwon constituency No. 205 to nominate candidates for deputies to the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] Sunday nominated the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song as a candidate for deputy to the SPA.

NODONG SINMUN today in an editorial titled "Manifestation of Unshakable Faith of the Korean People to Win Greater Victory Under the Leadership of the Great Leader Comrade Kim Il-song" says:

The nomination of Comrade Kim Il-song as a candidate for deputy to the SPA is an expression of the Korean people's unbounded reverence for and unquestioned trust in the great leader who, with his great ideology and leadership traits, has brilliantly adorned the long and glorious history of revolutionary activities.

Comrade Kim Il-song who has recorded more than 20 years of the anti-Japanese struggle and above 40 years of creation and construction with great victories is energetically guiding the Korean revolution and construction with rare personality as a tested veteran leader today when the revolution has reached a high stage.

That is why the Korean people elected Comrade Kim Il-song as the first deputy of the people at the first democratic elections after the liberation of the country and have always held him in high esteem at the head of our state power in the whole period of building a new society and today are dynamically struggling, entrusting to him all the destinies of our Republic and theirs.

His nomination as a candidate for deputy to the SPA this time is a token of such ever growing desire of the Korean people and a clear manifestation of the ardent loyalty and unbounded respect of the people to the great leader.

It also shows the Korean people's high praise of the undying feats of the great leader for the country and the people, the era and the revolution.

The editorial further says:

His nomination demonstrates the invariable and unshakable revolutionary faith of the Korean people to hold him in high esteem, following him to the end of the earth.

Dear Comrade Kim Chong-il has said:

"The revolutionary conviction of the Korean communists and people who remain faithful to the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song will never be shaken."

The nomination of the great leader as a candidate for deputy to the SPA reflects the unshakable will of the Korean people who have traversed a ten thousand-ri long road indicated by him, to follow the party and the leader to the last, weathering out any storm or stress.

His nomination is one more auspicious event of the Korean people. The entire people are renewing their determination to gain a better knowledge of his greatness with the auspicious event as an occasion and carry the revolutionary cause to accomplishment along the road of *chuche* indicated by him.

Lawyers Adopt Resolution on Unity, Japan

SK0104091190 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0835 GMT
1 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 1 (KCNA)—The 13th conference of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL) supported the proposal of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for national reunification.

A resolution on Korea was adopted at the conference.

Considering that to relax the situation on the Korean peninsula and achieve its peaceful reunification as early as possible is the key to peace and security in Asia and the rest of the world, it welcomed the DPRK's proposal for peaceful reunification through confederation and its new peace overtures.

The resolution says:

The conference demands that the concrete wall dividing the country be pulled down for free travel and complete opening between the North and the South in politics, economy, culture and other fields, the suppression of South Korean people who are struggling for reunification be stopped and coed Yim Su-kyong and other prisoners who called for reunification be released.

It appeals to lawyers and people across the world to extend support to the just demands of the Korean people for national reunification.

Another resolution for defence of the rights of Korean citizens in Japan was adopted at the conference.

It urged the Japanese authorities to revise the discriminative "foreigners registration law" and abolish the fingerprinting system, compulsory constant carrying of the foreigners registration cards and the penalty system which are the factors of the encroachment upon human rights.

It also urged them to renounce the discrimination policy towards the Koreans in Japan and fully guarantee their rights.

A joint statement supporting the DPRK's new proposal for national reunification was issued by delegates of many countries including the United States, Britain, France, Italy, India, Bangladesh, Colombia, Honduras and Argentina.

Considering that the DPRK's new national reunification proposal to pull down the barrier between the North and the South and ensure free travel and complete opening is a realistic one which conforms to the demands of the entire Korean people and the trend of the time, we express full support to it, the statement says.

It calls on the justice- and peace-loving lawyers and people of the world to strengthen support and solidarity for the Korean people's just struggle for the country's reunification.

In the meantime, the participants in the conference held a meeting for solidarity with Yim Su-kyong and adopted an appeal calling for an international campaign for her release.

It says:

The illegal sentences on coed Yim Su-kyong and her companion are a challenge to human conscience and to the lawyers of the world calling for observance of fair laws.

We demand that the suppression of the South Korean students and people be discontinued and all the illegally arrested figures including Yim be immediately released.

We ardently appeal to the lawyers and peace-loving people around the world who value justice, human rights and national sovereignty to invigorate the worldwide campaign supporting the South Korean students and

people in their just struggle for the release of Yim Su-kyong and for independence, democracy and reunification.

Propagandists Emphasize 'Education in Loyalty'

SK0204121590 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1121 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 2 (KCNA)—A national meeting of trade union propagandists was held here today.

The meeting discussed tasks facing the trade union propagandists in powerfully rousing the working class and the trade union members to implement the tasks set forth by the great leader President Kim Il-song in his New Year address and the decisions of the 17th plenary meeting of the Sixth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

It elaborated on the need to effectively conduct the ideological education of various forms including education in loyalty, education in the revolutionary traditions and education in socialist patriotism in combination with the fundamental principle of the *chuche* idea.

It also stressed the need to continue fully displaying the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and hard work under the party's slogan "Let us live our own way!", proudly conscious that our idea, traditions and system are the best.

Calling for invigorating the political propaganda and agitation for increased production, the meeting stated that the trade union propagandists should go down among the masses with knapsacks on their backs as the anti-Japanese guerrillas did and activate explanations, agitation through visual aids and art activities, thus encouraging them to turn out as one in the drive for increased production and economies in the spirit and mettle which were displayed in the postwar period of the great *chollima* upsurge.

The meeting was attended by Kim Chung-nin, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, and officials concerned.

Pyongyang Stresses Lowering Consumption Norm

SK0104053490 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0007 GMT 29 Mar 90

[NODONG SINMUN 29 March Editorial: "Let Us Actively Wage the Struggle To Lower Norm of Material Consumption"]

[Text] Our people are now vigorously waging the struggle for increasing production and for practicing conservation following the decision of the 17th plenary meeting of the Sixth Workers Party of Korea Central Committee. In order to further accelerate the general march to glorify the first year of the promising nineties with a new great upsurge, it is imperative to vigorously wage the struggle

for lowering the norm of material consumption in all sectors of the national economy.

Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau and secretary of the party Central Committee, has indicated: All sectors and units should vigorously wage the struggle to lower the standard of material consumption per unit of product, should conserve even one gram of coal, one kilowatt of electricity, one drop of fuel, and one piece of steel plate, and should produce and construct more and more with existing materials, facilities, and labor.

The norm of material consumption is the basis of planning and is also the means of control of the utilization and consumption of raw materials, fuel, power, facilities, labor, and funds in production and construction. To rapidly accelerate production and construction with fewer funds, we should correctly establish the norm of material consumption and constantly lower it. To successfully fulfill the militant task facing us this year and the grand goals of the Third Seven-Year Plan and to further improve the people's living, as well, we should actively wage the struggle to lower the norm of material consumption in all sectors of the national economy and, thus, produce and construct more with existing materials and facilities while using fewer raw materials and less fuel and power.

Our party has appealed to the people to make the already-provided economic foundation prove its worth by increasing production and practicing conservation. The struggle to lower the norm of material consumption is precisely a rewarding struggle to thoroughly carry out this militant appeal of the party.

Today's reality, in which, under the wise leadership of our party, science and technology have been developed, facilities have been further modernized, and economic management has been properly organized, has further increased the possibility of lowering the norm of material consumption.

With his deep insight into the demands of reality, the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il recently stressed the need to lower the norm of material consumption through a struggle for conservation. All sectors of the national economy should actively wage the struggle to lower the norm of material consumption in conformity with the party's intent. What is more important than anything else in lowering the norm of material consumption is for functionaries and the working people to work with the attitude befitting the master while displaying the ethos of assiduous economic activity.

Assiduously carrying out the nation's economic activity while conserving and economizing everything is the intrinsic trait of those who are carrying out the revolution and the inherent life habit in the socialist society. Whether or not the norm of material consumption can be lowered depends upon those functionaries and working people who directly deal with materials.

Those who lack the ethos of assiduous economic activity are not interested in the norm of material consumption and cannot make efforts to lower it. Our functionaries and working people should deeply keep in their hearts the awareness and sense of responsibility as the masters of plants and the masters of production and should always pay attention to producing and constructing more with fewer materials.

The struggle for conservation and economizing is a precondition for lowering the norm for material consumption. Only when we use fewer raw materials and materials and less fuel and power by strengthening the struggle for increasing production and practicing conservation can we lower the norm of material consumption.

All functionaries, party members, and the working people should struggle to actively use and conserve sparingly even one gram of coal and cement, one watt of electricity, one drop of fuel, and one piece of steel plate, while upholding the party's slogan, "Let us conserve, conserve, and conserve still more." To strengthen the struggle for conservation and economy, it is imperative to correctly establish a norm for material consumption. If we fail to correctly establish a norm for material consumption, we cannot avoid waste and this will result in consuming more materials and producing more products than we need. Functionaries in the sectors concerned should go deep into reality, should grasp in detail the norm of material consumption in plants and enterprises, and, thus, should correctly establish it in conformity with the demands of the developing reality.

Seeing to it that functionaries correctly grasp and understand the norm of material consumption and, thus, guide production and construction is precisely our party's consistent and invariable demand. Those functionaries who do not correctly grasp and understand the norm of material consumption cannot correctly conduct guidance and management of the economy.

All functionaries should correctly remain aware of how important setting the correct norm of material consumption and abiding by it are in managing the national economy. All functionaries also should get well acquainted with the norm of consumption at their units and steadily make efforts to lower it, talking with the producing masses and working together. It is also important to assess production on the basis of the norm of material consumption. Plants and enterprises should refrain from assessing only in terms of quantity how much production plans have been fulfilled.

In case they have overfulfilled production plans, functionaries should try a qualitative assessment to find out whether production has been increased by saving raw materials and materials or by consuming more raw materials and materials. Thus, they should see to it that all workers pay close attention to the norm of consumption and work hard to lower it.

The greatest reserve for lowering the norm of consumption lies in technical innovation.

All sectors of the national economy should introduce more scientific and technological successes into production so that the norm of material consumption per unit of product can be lowered. Also, they should more actively stage the campaign of technical innovation to lower the norm of consumption.

The plants and enterprises should increase the role of the 15 April technical innovation shock brigades and accelerate a mass technical innovation campaign, thus modernizing technical provisions and introduce many advanced production and construction methods to produce and construct more with fewer raw materials and less fuel, power, equipment, and funds.

It is important to strictly establish a system and order on the utilization and consumption of materials, equipment, and funds. Unless the plants and enterprises strictly establish the order of the use and consumption of materials on the basis of the norm of material consumption, they cannot prevent waste of materials nor can they systematically lower their norm.

All sectors of the national economy should rigorously establish a system of measurement and instrumentation. When they consume raw materials and materials and utilize equipment and funds, they should first calculate whether their consumption and utilization exceed the norm of consumption and then organize every work.

In particular, functionaries should supply sectors with materials according to the norms of material consumption per unit of product, fairly assess the amount of supplies on the basis of the status of material consumption or waste, and timely take appropriate measures when the norm of consumption is exceeded. This is precisely a method for assiduous economic management.

An idea decides everything. The work of lowering the norm of material consumption largely depends on the degree to which the masses are stirred up ideologically.

The party organizations of every level and the three revolution team members should help the masses deeply understand dear Comrade Kim Chong-il's recent remarks about the systematic lowering of the norm of material consumption and should see to it that they give full play to their revolutionary zeal and creativity in implementing his remarks.

All party organizations in all fields of the national economy should cling to the work of lowering the norm of material consumption, actively assist this work by the party's method, and thus, create new examples of increasing and saving more at their units. Only then can production and construction be more rapidly accelerated this year, the first year of the nineties, and new upsurges be effected in the struggle to expedite the fulfillment of the Third Seven-Year Plan.

Daily on Chuche, Leader's 'Monolithic Guidance'

SK3103113390 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1051 GMT
31 Mar 90

[Text] Pyongyang March 31 (KCNA)—The chuche idea is a great idea which realised the centuries-old desire and ideal of mankind for chajusong and blazed the trail for the masses to shape history and their own destiny by themselves, stresses Prof. and Dr. Kim Hwa-chong in an article carried by the Saturday issue of NODONG SINMUN.

The article says among other things:

The great chuche idea is a perfect revolutionary doctrine to realise the desire and ideal of the masses for chajusong in that it was the first in the world to raise the realisation of chajusong as the supreme goal of human emancipation on the basis of the establishment of a man-centred outlook on the world and gave comprehensive answers to all problems in attaining the goal while defending the idea of class liberation raised by the preceding ideology of the working class.

Dear Comrade Kim Chong-il with his energetic ideological and theoretical activities has enriched the chuche idea founded by the great leader president Kim Il-song into a profound and unique ideology and theory and formulated in an all-round way and consummated this idea in his monumental work "On the Chuche Idea" and many other works. This has greatly contributed to the accomplishment of the independent desire and ideal of the masses.

Dear Comrade Kim Chong-il said:

"Because it reflects the common aspiration of the world's people to chajusong, the chuche idea is exerting a great influence on the contemporary revolutionary movements to build a new world of independence."

The chuche idea has performed great feats in indicating the path to realise the desire and ideal of the masses for chajusong.

One of them is that it has established the chuche-based outlook on the world truly conducive to the realisation of the chajusong of the masses.

The world outlook of the chuche philosophy raised the fundamental question of philosophy by regarding man as the main factor, formulated the philosophical principle that man is the master of everything and decides everything and, on this basis, elucidated the man-centred view, conception and position on the world. This outlook expounds in a scientific way that chajusong is an attribute subjugation and restriction is his intrinsic demand and the complete realisation of chajusong is his fundamental purpose. It also most correctly indicates the fundamental way for man to shape his own destiny.

Another feat is that it has propounded from a new angle the law of the course of realising chajusong and, on this

basis, systematized in an integral system the theories and strategy and tactics of the revolutionary movement.

The chuche idea evolves the law of the start and development of the revolution and theories on the historical course of the revolutionary struggle for chajusong and all stages and all domains of the revolution with the working masses as the main factor and formulates in a comprehensive, integral system the strategy and tactics of the revolution on the basis of their role. Herein lies the important content of the great chuche idea indicating how to realise the independent desire and ideal of the masses and its historic contribution to the development of the revolutionary thought of the working class.

One more feat of the chuche idea is that it has given perfect, scientific answers to the question of the method of correctly leading the struggle of the masses for chajusong.

The great chuche idea raised the question of the leadership method as one of the fundamental factors for victory in the revolution and expounded it in a comprehensive way. Especially, it created and perfected the leadership method of the party in power, the method of leading socialist construction.

The chuche idea, on the basis of a scientific analysis of the position and role of the leader in the historical development and the revolutionary struggle, clearly expounds that the leadership over the masses means, in essence, the leader's guidance, only under the guidance of the party and the leader can the masses be an independent subject of history shaping their own destiny by themselves and, accordingly, the monolithic guidance of the leader over the masses is the fundamental issue decisive to the destiny of the revolution.

Bureaucracy 'Harmful as Poison' to Society

SK0104092590 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0902 GMT
1 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 1 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today carries an article contributed by Dr. Kim Pyong-kyu on the occasion of the 35th anniversary of the publication of "on eliminating bureaucracy," a work of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song.

The work gives a comprehensive exposition of the essence and the harm of bureaucracy, the main target of the struggle for properly establishing the party's leadership method and the functionaries' work style, and the way of eliminating it.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song said:

"Revolutionary work is for the people and bureaucracy is against the people. Therefore, bureaucracy is absolutely impermissible in revolutionary work."

Elaborating on the harm of bureaucracy, the article says:

If bureaucracy is allowed in socialist society, it will be impossible to fully display the superiority of the socialist system and a serious harm will be done to the revolution and construction.

Bureaucracy in socialist society is as harmful as poison.

Bureaucracy finds its most serious expression in that it divorces the party from the masses. To establish relations of kinship between the party and the masses is a vital question decisive of the rise and fall of socialist society, and, at the same time, the life and soul of the popular masses.

If the leading officials look down upon the masses, issue commands to them and infringe on their interests, it will result in slackening the popular masses' trust in the party.

The harm of bureaucracy finds its expression particularly in that it benumbs the creativity of the popular masses and hinders the triumphant progress of the revolution and construction.

The article further says:

After the publication of the work, the great leader has continued to develop in depth the struggle against the old work method and for the establishment of a revolutionary one.

He created the Chongsan-ri spirit and the Chongsan-ri method. (He) established a revolutionary work system by embodying the revolutionary mass line, which marked a historical occasion of turn in overcoming bureaucracy and establishing a revolutionary method of work.

Dear Comrade Kim Chong-il who has steadfastly defended the chuche-oriented idea and method of mass leadership has wisely guided the functionaries to thoroughly embody the great leader's method of work.

Therefore, the whole society is replete with the great leader's method of work and our country has become a bureaucracy-free country where the revolutionary mass line is implemented to the letter and socialist democracy displays itself to the fullest.

In order to establish the revolutionary work method, it is important for the functionaries to have the revolutionary viewpoint on the masses and make it a rule to go down among the masses.

To strengthen the collective leadership is a most powerful method of eliminating subjectivism and arbitrariness which are the hotbed of bureaucracy. It is also important to strengthen the collective leadership of the party committees, the top leading bodies of the units, thus keeping the work from being organized and conducted by subjectivism and arbitrariness of individual officials.

Science, Technology Books Published in DPRK

SK3003151890 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1500 GMT
30 Mar 90

[Text] Pyongyang March 30 (KCNA)—Popular science and technology books are published in large numbers in Korea.

Publishing houses this year will bring out some 600 books of this category which will make great contributions to the chuche-orientation, modernization and scientific of the national economy.

More than 200 kinds of books helpful to the development of electronics, automation and machine industries including "designing of electromotion device control system of electric motor" and "electric-powered drill" will be put out by the industrial publishing house.

This publishing house has already brought out scores on books such as "Solutions to Questions of Integrated Circuit," "A Series of Books on Integrated Circuit" (Vol.9) and "Flexible Production System."

The book "Solutions to Questions of Integrated Circuit" explains about integrated circuit physics, model similar figures integrated circuit and digital integrated circuit.

"Flexible Production System" gives detailed data on the main structure of the system, the designing of an automatized plant, control system, program supply and on flexible production systems in operation and so on.

The science and encyclopaedia press will publish over 150 kinds of books this year. Among them, "Complete Books of Surgery" (Vols. 11 and 12), "Interesting Physical Metallurgy" (Vol. 1), "Traditional Korean Medical Treatment of Eye Diseases" and many other books have already been published and widely used among readers.

The press last year published some 100 kinds of science and technology books including "Some Interesting Questions in the Development of Geology" and "Radiation Biology," earning popularity among the scientists and technicians.

The railway publishing house and the agricultural publishing house will also bring out hundreds of kinds of books to help workers, peasants and technicians in the domains of railway transport and agriculture broaden their scientific and technological knowledge.

Books of science and technology soon to be published will play an important role in rapidly developing the nation's science and technology and in raising the level of technological knowledge of scientists, technicians and working people.

Cargo Transit Increases Via West Sea Barrage

*SK3103103690 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1008 GMT
31 Mar 90*

[Text] Pyongyang March 31 (KCNA)—Some 57,000 ships of various types have passed through the west sea barrage in the last three years since the barrage was commissioned in May, 1986.

During the period cargo transit increased 12.5 percent on an annual average.

The number of home and foreign trade and cargo ships which pass through the barrage is on a yearly increase: 6,000 more ships in 1987 than in 1986, and in 1988 1.3 times as many ships as 1987.

17,000 more tons of cargo than in the same period last year were carried entering this year.

Such a jump in cargo carriage is attributable to the fact that the construction of the barrage made waters off Nampo Port sufficiently deep for a free sailing of ships up to tens of thousands of tons of displacement.

The west sea barrage was built by Korean People's Army soldiers in just 5 years.

Locomotive Corps Increase Freight Tonnage

*SK3103151890 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1503 GMT
31 Mar 90*

[Text] Pyongyang March 31 (KCNA)—The Pyongyang and west Pyongyang locomotive corps have carried 1,285,000 more tons of freight than the rated traction tonnage during the first quarter of the year.

This greatly contributed to the construction of major objects such as the second-stage construction of the Sunchon vinylon complex, the construction of the Sariwon potassic fertilizer complex and dwelling houses for 50,000 families in Pyongyang and to production at different industrial establishments.

The Pyongyang locomotive corps secured 290 extra locomotives and carried 89,000 more tons of freight by voluntary small-scale transport and 215,000 more tons by extra-haulage.

The west Pyongyang locomotive corps introduced new technical innovation proposals to surpass the rated traction tonnage by 980,000 tons.

In this period the Pyongyang locomotive corps and the west Pyongyang locomotive corps respectively have run 3 million and 2 million kilometres without accident.

South Korea**Police Tighten Guard Around Major Facilities**

*SK0204224490 Seoul Domestic Service in Korean
2200 GMT 2 Apr 90*

[Text] According to an intelligence report, some student movement activists will form suicide squads comprising between five and 20 members. These squads will attempt to make surprise attacks on major public facilities, including the central office of the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] and U.S. Embassy. The intelligence report says the attacks will be attempted to enhance the sense of struggle in connection with the 3 April resistance uprising in Cheju Island in 1948. In the wake of the report, National Police Headquarters has handed down a directive to police across the country to strengthen the guard of these facilities.

Following this directive, police have strengthened the guard around major public organizations, including the DLP headquarters and U.S. Cultural Center, and have requested business enterprises and plants that are undergoing worker-management disputes to thoroughly tighten their own guard.

*** Setup of Combined Command System Expedited**

*902C0139A Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean
1 Feb 90 p 5*

[Article by Yi Man-hun: "A Rush Is On Toward Establishment of the National Defense General Staff System: Laying the Foundation for Autonomous National Defense After the Withdrawal of U.S. Troops"]

[Text] It now appears likely that the biggest reorganization of the military structure since the founding of the national defense forces will become a reality sooner than expected.

The announcement on 30 January of the planned closure of three U.S. air bases and reduction of 2,000 noncombat U.S. military personnel in South Korea has turned the question of the withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Korea into a palpable reality, putting an end to the "to be or not to be" debate long waged over this question. This is having the effect of reawakening the sense of needs for "autonomous national defense" not only within the military but also in political quarters and among the general public. It is against this backdrop that the Ministry of National Defense [MND] is making an all-out effort to ensure the passage at the extraordinary session of the National Assembly in February of a bill revising the law governing the organization of the South Korean Armed Forces—a revision with its central focus on the idea of newly instituting the system of chairman of the National Defense General Staff [NDGS].

The MND, with its mind set on launching the NDGS command in early July as was originally planned, is now

expediting the administrative work of defining the organizational details of the command and of drafting the attendant legislative bills.

On 15 January, the MND dissolved the working committee that had been in charge of this matter and, in its place, formally launched an "8/8 Planning Group" and a "Working Group," both under the direct control of the defense minister; at the same time, the ministry also newly established a National Defense Staff College.

The MND also plans to complete in substance the structural formation of the NDGS command in the not too distant future by expanding and reorganizing the Security Command, the Medical Command, the National Defense College, and the Procurement Command—the only four existing combined commands involving all three services—with the Intelligence Command and the Communications Command included in the overall reorganization scheme.

Such a rush by the MND to institute the NDGS system as if it were a foregone conclusion is not prompted solely by the sudden change in the political equation that brought about a ruling majority and opposition minority in the National Assembly.

Rather, the MNDF believes that, as a result of the airing it received in the course of the regular sessions of the National Assembly last year, the question of introducing the NDGS system has already gained an understanding as well as a common feel for its necessity not only within the military but also in the political sector and among the general public.

Through the process of repeated distillations of popular opinions, the MND has refined several controversial aspects of its original concept of the NDGS system that drew criticism at the beginning—aspects such as over concentration of authority in the hands of the NDGS chairman and the question of downgrading the relative status of the Navy and the Air Force vis-a-vis the Army.

Initially the MND had planned to give the NDGS chairman not only the command authority over all three services but also the authority to recommend personnel actions involving key commanding officers including the service chiefs of staff; however, when strong opposition arose even within the military, the MND promptly changed its mind about empowering the chairman with the latter authority.

Also, in order to prevent the downgrading of the relative status of the Navy and the Air Force, the MND decided to staff the NDGS Command with personnel from the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force at the composition ratio of 2:1:1 unlike the 8:1:1 ratio currently applied to the personnel composition of the MND and the Joint Chiefs of Staff [FCS] Headquarters, and to fill the positions of chairman and two vice chairmen of the NDGS with officers from different services. The MND

took steps to have these provisions clearly reflected in the relevant laws and ordinances governing the personnel actions and staffing.

In addition, the MND also expanded the qualifications criteria for the NDGS chairmanship to include those general officers who either have served as chief of staff of any of the three services or hold the rank equivalent to a cabinet member; this was done so that an officer from the Navy and/or the Air Force—not just from the Army—can be appointed to the chairmanship.

If, as is hoped by the MND, the National Assembly passes the bill amending the law governing the organization of the Armed Forces during the February extraordinary session, the JCS Headquarters currently under the direct control of the defense minister will be abolished with most of the functions absorbed into the new NDGS Command. Specifically, the JCS's Operations Bureau, Strategic Planning Bureau, and Command Control and Communications Bureau will be renamed and reorganized as the Operations Directorate, the Strategic Planning Directorate, and the Command Control and Communications Staff, respectively, of the NDGS Command. Likewise, the JCS's Weapons Systems Bureau, Armaments Control Staff, and Planning Coordination Staff will be absorbed and consolidated into components of the NDGS Command with similar functions such as the War Preparedness Inspection Staff and the Logistics Directorate.

At the same time, some functions of the MND and headquarters of the three services will be either curtailed or absorbed and consolidated into the NDGS Command.

For instance, the existing Intelligence Command under the direct control of the defense minister, will be reorganized into the Intelligence Directorate of the NDGS Command, and the Psychological Warfare Section of the Army Headquarters' Intelligence Bureau will be absorbed into the Civil Psychological Warfare Staff of the NDGS Command. These changes, when completed, will result, in the case of the Army Headquarters, in a reduction of organization and personnel by about 30 percent.

Under such NDGS system (combined command system) as explained above, the minister of national defense has the overall administrative and command authority over the armed forces, but he exercises the administrative authority through the chief of staff of each service and the command authority through chairman of the NDGS; this is the system being used by most of the advanced nations including the United Kingdom, France, West Germany, and Australia. This system is far more effective than the JCS system being used by our country and the United States in terms of integration and adaptation in the use of military forces against the enemy's all-out surprise offensive strategy; another feature of this system

is its potential for conserving national defense resources while preserving the distinctive characters and traditions of individual services.

After all is said and done, however, the most important reason behind the drive to institute the NDGS system is the desire to lay the basic framework for autonomous national defense. For the introduction of this system will complete a powerful command structure capable of exercising an integrated leadership over all three armed services, making it possible for South Korea to face North Korea on an equal footing even after the U.S. Forces in South Korea are withdrawn.

Under the existing mode of our military structure, the JCS chairman has only an advisory role to assist the defense minister in the exercise of his military command authority; thus, there is no institutional mechanism that can lessen too heavy a burden being shouldered by the minister, and this void is making it difficult to ensure an integrated operational control of all three services which is called for in the modern warfare.

Also, although the operational control of the South Korean Armed Forces has evolved into a joint undertaking ever since 1978 when the South Korean-U.S. Joint Command was established, the South Korean JCS, due to its weak staffing and its chairman not being part of the chain of command, has proven inadequate in providing operational guidance and control to the Joint Command through the South Korean-U.S. Military Affairs Committee; as a result, South Korea is deficient in its autonomous command structure.

Moreover, considering the possibility, signs of which are evident in the recently announced reduction of the U.S. Air Force presence in South Korea, that the new mood of detente coupled with domestic factors in the United States may perhaps lead not to a complete withdrawal of the U.S. troops from South Korea but to a change in their role from leading to supportive in character, and that in addition to such an adjustment to the scope of the U.S. military presence, a change in the joint command structure may be inevitable, the time has come for South Korea to consider the inevitable need for an autonomous operational command structure.

It is in this context that there is a need to reexamine the true significance of the statement made late last year by General Menetrey, commander of the U.S. Forces in South Korea, in which the general expressed his willingness to discuss, at any time, the question of transferring the operational control of the South Korean Armed Forces. These are the reasons why the MND is taking the position that the NDGS system must be instituted expeditiously so that an independent and powerful operational command structure may be readied before factors affecting national security undergo changes at an accelerated pace.

Despite the general mood favoring an early institution of the NDGS system, however, the MND is also considering the idea of letting the timing slide somewhat, even

if the reorganization bill is passed by the National Assembly, in order to squelch the misgivings among some people who suspect that the early-July launching of the system is "part of the scheme to groom the successor [to President No] by elevating a certain individual to the position of NDGS chairman."

On the other hand, although there is optimism, in the wake of the birth of the new ruling party, about the chances of a smooth passage by the National Assembly of the bill amending the law governing the organization of the Armed Forces, the MND is also concerned about the possibility that the issue of amending the Constitution in favor of the parliamentary system and internal problems of the new party might dilute the interest in this matter even within the ruling sector and thereby put the reorganization on the back burner.

Opposition Criticizes Ruling Party for Violence

SK3003013390 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD
in English 30 Mar 90 p 2

[Text] The opposition camp launched an offensive against the ruling party in the wake of violence allegedly committed by ruling party election campaigners on an opposition lawmaker and his followers on an opposition lawmaker and his followers in a constituency in Chungchongnam-to which has thus far been overshadowed by what they described as "Chong Ho-yong syndrome" in electioneering in Taegu.

A spokesman for a group of unallied mavericks, tentatively called Democratic Party, yesterday claimed that Rep. Pak Chan-chong and three of the yet-to-be-formed party members were assaulted by a group of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] Wednesday evening while they were having a meeting with constituents of Chinchon-Umsong electorate as part of their stumping activities for Ho Tak, an official candidate of the nascent party for by-elections scheduled for April 3.

Rep. Pak and three of his followers sustained injuries requiring at least three weeks of medical treatment, the spokesman said.

Denouncing the violence as another sign of the ruling camp's plot to win the forthcoming by-elections following the controversial pullout of the race by former ruling party lawmaker Chong Ho-yong in the Taegu electorate, the splinter party called for immediate punitive actions against those responsible following the thorough investigation into the violence case.

The opposition Party for Peace and Democracy, which earlier contended that Chong's resignation was not an issue solely related to the election but was part of a grave problem that made all elections meaningless, also joined the Democratic Party in condemning what it described as "dirty tactics" employed by the ruling camp for winning the two by-elections which it said have fueled bitter controversy among Korean political parties and

raised doubts about the morality and legitimacy of President No Tae-u's government.

In response to the opposition moves, the ruling party is moving to bring charges against Rep. Pak to the prosecution for his illegal election campaign. Pak is not a campaigner registered with the authorities concerned, they said.

Yi Sang-ha, deputy DLP spokesman, said the ruling party decided to take legal actions against Rep. Pak because he has violated the National Assembly Election Law which bans unregistered campaigners from undertaking electioneering activities.

Fledgling Party Demands Probe

SK3103003190 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
31 Mar 90 p 2

[Text] Four lawmakers of the embryonic opposition Democratic Party called on Prime Minister Kang Yong-hun yesterday to protest violence by ruling party members against an opposition parliamentarian, Pak Chan-chong, chief campaigner for the Democratic Party's candidate in a by-election in Chungchongpuk-to, Wednesday.

Party for Peace and Democracy Changes Tactics

SK3103003990 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
31 Mar 90 p 2

[From the "Press Pocket" column: "Change of Tactics"]

[Text] The opposition Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD] is changing with clear signs of departure from its earlier radical image in its struggle against the ruling camp.

PPD president Kim Tae-chung yesterday stressed the need to compete with the ruling camp by presenting policy alternatives to those of the governing party, saying, "From now on, it will be hard to win the people's hearts with the slogan of 'dictatorship vs democracy.'"

He made the remarks during his address at the first session to develop policies. The PPD plans to hold such sessions twice a month.

Kim said emphatically, "The milieu of the party must be 'Let's learn and study. The big voices will not work any more.'"

Shortly after the merger of three political parties into the governing DLP [Democratic Liberal Party] in January, the PPD cried out its determination to stage a determined street struggle against the No Tae-u government, including a nationwide campaign to collect signatures from 10 million people.

Union Pullouts Prompt New Chonnohyop Strategy

SK3103005890 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
31 Mar 90 p 3

[Text] Chonnohyop [National Council of Labor Unions] has shed its image as a hard-line labor body and instead has adopted dialogue and compromise as its main strategies to advocate workers' interests. The sudden about-face came at the 3rd central committee of the National Council of Labor Unions held in Pusan Wednesday and Thursday.

Representatives of its member labor unions decided not to walk off the job on May Day, shelving its earlier decision to stage a nationwide walkout to mark the international labor day. Instead, the reform-minded labor body plans to stage a reduced commemorating ceremony and several cultural events May 1 in alliance with its rival Federation of Korean Trade Unions (FKTU).

Chonnohyop also showed a flexible stance on its target wage increase rate for this year, 23.3 percent, and vowed to seek practical measures to meet workers' real interests.

The labor body will lead companies to help their employees solve housing problems and make a decent living under soaring prices rather than calling strikes to push its demands Chonnohyop leaders said. Although Chonnohyop makes a concession in wage bargaining, its struggle will center on improving workers' fringe benefits such as housing, they added.

Chonnohyop's image-building measures are largely aimed at winning public support, which has noticeably waned in the past due to its die-hard struggles against the government and company management. The dissident labor body also realized that its past struggles failed to bring about tangible consequences in upgrading working conditions and increasing wages. Reflecting Chonnohyop's eroding grip over its member unions, several labor unions seceded from the labor body, expressing dismay over its politically-oriented struggles.

"Chonnohyop leaders reached the conclusion that flexible and multilateral strategies are the only way to obtain its long-term goals," said Chonnohyop's acting chairman Kim Yong-tae.

However, some union representatives proposed at the central committee that Chonnohyop push ahead with nationwide strikes and street rallies scheduled on May Day, which the government does not recognize. They also called on Chonnohyop representatives to stage a hunger strike in a protest against the arrest of chairman Tan Pyong-ho and the government's alleged business inspection of Chonnohyop's member labor unions. But the leadership dismissed their proposal, saying it may hamper just-started wage bargaining for this year.

Meanwhile, Chonnohyop leaders forecast that this spring's wage struggle would not be so fierce as that of last year. Chonnohyop advised its member unions to

jointly report the occurrence of labor disputes April 13-20 and enter into collective action May 1 in case labor-management wage negotiations become deadlocked.

'Real Name' Transactions Could Hurt Economy

*SK3103055290 Seoul YONHAP in English 0506 GMT
31 Mar 90*

[Text] Seoul, March 31 (YONHAP)—The forced use of real names in financial transactions would touch off a nightmarish flood of speculation in real estate and antiques as well as capital flight, draining bank accounts dry, according to a survey by a private South Korean economic institute.

The Korea University Economic Research Institute, which questioned 787 officials of financial organizations in big cities across the country and 367 wealthy bank depositors in Seoul, found that the well-to-do totally reject the new financial system, primarily for fear of a sharp surge in capital gains tax and exposure of their wealth.

The survey, conducted in July and August last year, further found that money deposited under real names accounts for 73.6 percent of all cash on deposit with banks (60 percent of all deposits beyond 50 million won, or 71,428 U.S. dollars). This compares with the government figure of 98.2 percent of all money in bank accounts.

The survey, commissioned by the state-run Korea Development Institute (KDI), a think tank for economic policies, said the pseudonymous deposits comprise 40.9 percent of all deposits from 50 million won to 100 million won: 33.8 percent from 100 million to 500 million won: 54.6 percent over 500 million won.

A majority of the people with huge false-name deposits said they would remove their money from banks and invest it in real estate, gold or antiques if the new system were enacted.

It said 64.7 percent of the financial organization workers and 37.5 percent of the depositors feared that the real-name system would eventually dampen the people's willingness to deposit their money in banks. Among depositors, 36.6 percent said they would shift their money to real estate, corporate bonds, precious metals or antiques if the real-name financial transaction system were implemented. Of the financial workers, 26.3 percent feared a drain of money from banks into real estate and 14.1 percent mentioned capital flight as an inevitable side effect of the system.

The system was feared to badly affect the stock market by 69.2 percent of the respondents presently investing in the market and by 57.8 percent of the respondents with no stock holdings. However, 52 percent of the financial workers believed the market would adjust to the new system after a temporary setback.

Despite those fears, about 66.7 percent of all respondents agreed that the system would help "to some extent" to shed light on a substantial portion of illicit income, if not all.

The Korean Government had sought to enforce the use of real names in transactions of financial assets starting from next year, but is now considering postponing implementation for fear of its impact on the ailing economy.

UN Talks on ROK Had 'No Particular Meaning'

*SK3103020590 Seoul YONHAP in English 0140 GMT
31 Mar 90*

[Text] Seoul, March 31 (YONHAP)—Formation of a United Nations group to study possible admission of South Korea to the world body was "routine" and had "no particular meaning," a Foreign Ministry official said Saturday.

He said it was true that U.N. representatives from Canada, France, Britain and Japan had met with a member of Korea's observer mission in New York on Wednesday, but denied that it was their first meeting. They had met several times before, he said.

South Korea's U.N. membership bid requires that various considerations be made because success entirely depends on whether the Soviet Union and China veto the proposal.

Quoting "diplomatic sources," AFP filed a New York-dated story Thursday that said the meeting came "after Seoul expressed the wish to garner the benefits of the ongoing diplomatic breakthrough in Eastern Europe."

Defectors Say More North Koreans Want To Flee

*SK0204113990 Seoul YONHAP in English 1133 GMT
2 Apr 90*

[Text] Seoul, April 2 (YONHAP)—The two North Korean students who have just defected to South Korea via a European country said that "not a few" North Koreans presently studying in the East European countries are wishing to flee to South Korea before Moscow establishes diplomatic relations with Seoul.

The two defectors, identified as Nam Myong-chol and Pak Chol-chin, both 25, made the remarks in a press conference upon their arrival here from Europe Monday, insisting that the North Korean students in the Soviet Union and other East European countries will be instructed to return to Pyongyang when the Soviet Union fully normalizes its relations with South Korea.

Nam and Pak, who have majored in computer sciences at Leningrad University in the Soviet Union, said that they made up their minds to defect to Seoul after getting to know about the economic progress and "freedom

enjoyed by the people in the South" through reports in the Soviet press media since December 1986.

Dressed in blue jean pants and sweaters, both of the duo wore healthy and pleasant looks. The two students were granted political asylum at a South Korean Embassy in Europe. They marked the fourth defection to South Korea by North Koreans studying in Eastern Europe since Feb. 1989, when Cho Song-kon and Kim Un-chol fled from Czechoslovakia, and are the first from the Soviet Union.

Further on DPRK Defectors

SK0304012890 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
3 Apr 90 p 1

[Text] Two North Koreans studying at a Soviet university defected to South Korea yesterday through an embassy in Paris.

Nam Myong-chol and Pak Chol-chin, both 25-year-old male students in Leningrad University, arrived in Seoul aboard a Korean Air jetliner yesterday afternoon. They majored in computer science.

In a press conference at Kimpo Airport, they said they have dreamed of "liberal and high-standard living in South Korea, having felt the constraints of the North Korean society which we, experienced international trend of openness and reforms, can neither put up with nor change it."

The two "long-time friends," clad in blue jeans, left Moscow on March 25, went to Germany and then France, and contacted Korean embassy officials in Paris.

Saying that they are well aware of reforms sweeping Eastern Europe, they declared, "Even the Soviet Union is now adopting a capitalist economy. The fact eloquently speaks for the superiority of capitalism."

"What on earth has socialism given us? Money? Wealth?" Nam demanded.

They said that many students in the Soviet Union fear being called to the Communist North is case the Soviet Union establishes diplomatic ties with South Korea.

"We heard in the Soviet Union that ruling party co-leader Kim Yong-sam met with a high-level Soviet official and believed that the establishment of diplomatic links between Korea and the Soviet Union would come in the near future. This development would certainly not allow us to remain in the Soviet Union," Nam said.

"It is highly probable that our defection would prompt North Korea to call back all of its students studying in the Soviet Union," he said. North Korea had its students in the Soviet Union obtain permits from the embassy in Moscow for their travel.

An estimated 8,800 students trainees and researchers in Eastern European countries have been brought to North

Korea with the normalization of relations between South Korea and the countries. There are about 1,000 North Korean students and researchers in the Soviet Union at present.

They ruled out the possibility of changes in North Korea even if Kim Il-song transfers power to his son Chong-il as "North Koreans are isolated from reforms outside, tamed to government controls and banned from organizing even a small group without public permission.

"Power has virtually been delegated to Kim Chong-il since the late 1970s. And there are none who have power base matching him," Pak said. "His younger brothers of different mothers, Ambassador to Bulgaria Pyong-il, and Yong-il have no supporters in the North Korean leadership following a campaign to cut off branches (from the tree).

Both are from North Korea's highbrow families.

Nam said his father is a senior auditor at the construction committee of the state council and his mother is a former director at the council. Pak's father and mother are senior researcher at Kim Chaek Engineering College, alma mater of the two defectors.

"We are afraid of any consequence that may fall on our parents because of our defection," Pak added.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said that the government has decided to give them exile after the Korean embassy and the European country have jointly confirmed their will to defect to the capitalist South.

They were the fourth North Korean group who defected to Seoul while studying in Eastern European countries, following Cho Sung-kun and Kim Un-chol from Czechoslovakia in February last year, Tong Yong-chun and Kim Un-hak from Poland last May and Chang Yong-chol and Chon Chol-u from East Germany in November.

Their defection will not affect improving relations between South Korea and the Soviet Union, a senior Foreign Ministry official said.

Weekly Hong Kong-Pyongyang Flight Postponed

SK0304020290 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean
3 Apr 90 p 1

[Text] (Hong Kong—YONHAP) North Korea has indefinitely postponed the flight of a chartered plane which it planned to operate regularly once a week between Hong Kong and Pyongyang beginning 2 April.

The Chungoe Travel Agency, which is in charge of the flight between Hong Kong and Pyongyang, revealed that it has indefinitely postponed the plan to operate a chartered airplane on a regular basis on every Monday between Hong Kong and Pyongyang from 2 April.

Without explaining the reason for the postponement, the Chungoe Travel Agency said that there will be no Hong Kong-Pyongyang chartered flight at least until the end of this month.

People observe that the indefinite postponement of the flight has something to do with North Korea's move to restrict the entry of foreigners, which began in early March.

Ties With China Depend on Korean Reunification

SK0304022690 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD
in English 3 Apr 90 p 2

[Text] Hong Kong (YONHAP)—China is not planning to exchange trade offices with south Korea while maintaining friendly relations with north Korea, Chinese language newspapers published here said Sunday.

MING PAO and DA KUNG BAO, quoting Li Chang-chun, a top official of Liao Ning province, reported that official relations between Seoul and Beijing will be possible after south and north Korea reach an agreement on their reunification. Meeting with reporters, Li, who is now in Beijing after attending the National People's Congress, said that trade between south Korea and Liao Ning province, in particular, has increased sharply.

Li said that south Korean businessmen, showing their intention to invest in Liao Tung Peninsula, asked China to allow the establishment of a trade office in this province. However, only the central government is now authorized to allow the opening of a trade office, he added, according to DA KUNG BAO.

Li was further quoted as saying that formal relations between Seoul and Beijing would not be set up until after the prospects for reunification between south and north Korea become certain.

Conflicting Reports From Kim, Pak Draw Comment

SK3103004890 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
31 Mar 90 p 2

[By staff reporter Sin Hak-im]

[Text] About 400 years ago, two envoys were dispatched from the Choson Dynasty to Japan to look into the situation in the country. Upon their return, they made conflicting reports on the possibility of the island country invading their homeland.

Hwang Yun-kil, chief delegate, reported that the feudal Japanese kingdom under Toyotomi Hideyoshi was certain to invade the peninsula. But his deputy, Kim Song-il, denied the possibility. About a year later, Hideyoshi invaded the unprepared Choson Dynasty, capturing the whole country in several months.

Kim Yong-sam, a co-leader of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP], appears to have made a successful visit to the Soviet Union by winning a positive response

from top Soviet leaders to the suggestion of early normalization of relations between South Korea and the Soviet Union, a long-time ally of North Korea. But the lack of coordination between Kim and Pak Chol-on, state minister for political affairs, which was reportedly exposed during and after their Moscow visit, could parallel the episode of the two Choson envoys.

Kim and Rep. Pak Chol-on, who accompanied the DLP co-leader, made different reports on the outcome of their visits including the prospects for developments on and around the Korean peninsula. First, Kim strongly hinted on several occasions that he had agreed with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and other Soviet leaders on the establishment of full diplomatic relations within a certain period of time.

"I could reveal the timing for the normalization of relations, but now is not the time to make it public," Kim said during an in-flight press conference en route from Moscow to Tokyo on Wednesday.

But, Pak, a key architect of President No Tae-u's "northern policy," took a different line. He said, "It is true that Kim's Moscow visit has contributed to fostering friendly atmosphere between South Korea and the Soviet Union. But, as far as I know, there was no agreement whatsoever about a timetable."

Second, Kim said in a resolute manner during a press conference upon his arrival at Kimpo Airport Thursday afternoon that South Koreans will no longer have to worry about any armed provocations from Communist North Korea. Then he said, "A tremendous change will take place in our relations with North Korea as well as within Communist North Korea soon."

Kim even hinted that the Soviet Union has pledged to help deter North Korean provocation against the South. However, he declined to elaborate on the details of talks with Soviet leaders.

An aide to Kim Yong-sam, who accompanied him, speculated that Soviet leaders might have vowed to support South Korea's entry, either alone or jointly with North Korea, into the United Nations (UN).

Pak denied these reports. He said that he had working-level contacts with Karen Brutents, deputy head of the international department of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee, three times. He also refused to give details of the talks.

The 48-year-old key aide to President No was skeptical about Kim's remarks hinting that a breakthrough will take place in the deadlocked inter-Korean relations.

Kim had a luncheon meeting yesterday with President No, Kim Chong-pil, and Pak Tae-chun to brief the DLP leaders on the outcome of his eight-day Moscow visit.

Pak Chol-on, for his part, discussed follow-up measures along with senior officials of the Foreign Ministry, the Agency for National Security Planning, and presidential

staff members, yesterday morning. To a certain extent, Kim deserves the spotlight for his success in paving the way for the normalization of relations with Moscow.

A senior member of the DLP, who also accompanied Kim, said that he got the impression from Kim's remarks that he might have won a promise from top Soviet leaders to help maintain peace on the Korean peninsula.

"Even if the Soviet Union is able to exercise some influence upon North Korea, it is another question whether the Communist North will act as we hope," said DLP spokesman Pak Hui-tae.

He admitted that, though understandable, Kim appears to have made a hasty approach toward the Soviets, without paying keen attention to the different positions of the two governments of South Korea and the Soviet Union in bilateral relations.

Despite their recognition of the necessity for the establishment of full diplomatic relations, senior Soviet officials seemed restive in starting working-level negotiations to that end, said Pak.

Another DLP member said that the competition between Kim and Pak for credit of their Moscow mission seems to have provided room for the Soviet Union to play off Kim against Pak.

Pak Says KAL Incident Discussed in Moscow

*SK0304041990 Seoul Domestic Service in Korean
0300 GMT 3 Apr 90*

[Text] Minister of State Pak Chol-on said today that during his visit to the Soviet Union, he extensively discussed the downing of a Korean Air Lines [KAL] plane with Soviet leaders.

He also said that he discussed the plane's downing in the belief that we must have the unfortunate incidents of the past clarified before we promote our ties with the Soviet Union on a new footing. He added that the Soviet side did not assume a negative attitude to this discussion.

Regarding compensation for the bereaved families of this incident, Minister of State Pak Chol-on said that because a majority of Soviet people still believe that the KAL plane carried out espionage activities, and because it has been many years since the incident, it may be difficult for us to get compensation. On the issue of the Soviet Union's apology, he also said that we must wait and see.

Joint Industrialists' Meeting Concludes 27 Mar

*SK2803082790 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean
28 Mar 90 p 9*

[Text] The second round of the joint meeting of the ROK-USSR Economic Cooperation Council, which began on 22 March in Seoul was concluded on 27 March, and a joint statement was issued which discussed such

matters as the opening of the ROK branch of the Soviet trading firm (Richenjintork).

The industrialists of the two countries in a joint statement on the same day stated that they had agreed to conduct trade differently than with the previous practice of triangular trade, by establishing the ROK branch of the Soviet trading firm (Richenjintork). The ROK companies, Hyundai, Samsung, Daewoo, and Lucky-Goldstar, have opened their branch offices in the Soviet Union. They have agreed to hold a Soviet trade fair in Seoul this May in which Soviet goods containing some 60 items for which ROK-USSR cooperation is anticipated will be on display.

It has also been agreed that the Soviet council will send Soviet scientists, technicians and delegates from Soviet industries to Seoul during the second half of this year to attend a seminar for scientific and technological cooperation. The seminar is intended to promote the joint work of combining Soviet science and technology with our production skills. The council has also agreed to push ahead with the exchange of scientific and technological information and data and the dispatch of experts.

The council also agreed to provide a legal protective device, such as the guarantee for investment and the prevention of double taxation, to promote mutual investment through the establishment of joint ventures and the participation in special economic zones. The council also agreed to hold a third round of joint meetings in Moscow in April 1991 and to hold working-level meetings whenever necessary, in addition to the joint meetings, to discuss pending issues.

Japanese Daily Comments on ROK-USSR Ties

*SK0304044290 Seoul Domestic Service in Korean
0300 GMT 3 Apr 90*

[YONHAP from Tokyo]

[Text] Quoting a Soviet diplomatic expert on Asia, YOMIURI SHIMBUN reported today that the Soviet Union and Korea have agreed to establish diplomatic relations before the end of this year and that this will be announced in a few days.

YOMIURI SHIMBUN reported that this expert said that during a visit to the Soviet Union by Kim Yong-sam, leader of the Democratic Liberation Party, an agreement was reached, in principle, on establishing diplomatic relations before the end of this year. This expert also said that only conditions for the establishment of embassies and other technical issues remain unsolved.

The newspaper also said that the fact that the Soviet Union and Korea agreed to establish diplomatic relations before the end of this year shows that the diplomacy of the Gorbachev regime, which espouses new

thinking, has begun to be applied to Asia, too, and that the Soviet Union's diplomacy toward Asia is undergoing a rapid change.

Group Demands Japan Apologize for WWII Deaths

SK2703031890 Seoul YONHAP in English 0256 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] Seoul, March 27 (OANA-YONHAP)—Some 600 relatives of South Koreans killed in World War II announced Monday that they will sue the Japanese Government for an apology and compensation.

"Not once in the 46 years since the end of the World War II has Japan apologized for the deaths of innocent Koreans, and we will sue Japan in an international court as a war criminal to display its crimes to the world," said a spokesman for the Association for Bereaved Families of Victims of the Pacific War.

The 600 association members had all fought in the war as soldiers or been drafted as workers or their families had taken part in the war. Japan, which colonized Korea from 1910 to 1945, conscripted Korean men and women into its army during the war.

"When Korea and Japan normalized relations in 1965, Japan identified only 21,919 Korean war dead although at least 440,000 were killed and 1.6 million injured out of the 6 million Koreans drafted by Japan," the spokesman said.

It is the second time this year, the first was in early March, that the association has announced that it intends to sue the Japanese Government for compensation. According to a report published by the Japanese Justice Ministry in 1987, over 242,000 Koreans were killed or injured fighting for Japan in the war.

The association members called on the Japanese Government to reveal the names of the Korean victims, exhume and repatriate their remains, pay compensation for the Koreans dead or injured, pay compensation for the suffering of the bereaved families, guarantee the legal status of Japanese-Koreans and provide treatment and compensation for the Korean victims of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

After a three-hour news conference, the association members tried to hold a protest rally in front of the Japanese Embassy, but were forced back by the police after 20 minutes of pushing and pulling. Five association representatives, however, visited the embassy and delivered a list of their demands.

The ralliers disbanded after a March to Pagoda Park, where Korean nationalists issued a declaration of independence in defiance of Japanese colonial authorities in 1919. Signs carried by the marchers read, "Japan, make an official apology!"

During the news conference, a Japanese woman voiced support for the demands. "The Japanese Government

should make an official apology for Korean victims," said Atsuko Aoyanagi, the secretary general of a Japanese group that support the cause of the Korean association.

No Receives Calls for Repatriation of War Dead

SK0304061890 Seoul YONHAP in English 0539 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] Seoul, April 3 (YONHAP)—South Korean President No Tae-u, in the run-up to his scheduled trip to Japan, is coming under attack from an unprecedented barrage of humanitarian calls for the repatriation of the remains of tens of thousands of Koreans killed in Japan and elsewhere in Asia during World War II.

Relatives of Koreans believed killed in action or who died during forced labor for the Japanese demand that Seoul and Tokyo lay to rest the issue of return home of Korean remains scattered throughout Japan and old battlegrounds in Southeast Asia.

They contend that of about 6 million Koreans drafted for forced labor or military services by the Japanese colonial power, most of them from Southern provinces, 1 million are dead. In contrast, the remains of fewer than 10,000 Koreans were returned to South Korea both by private and official channels, including 1,188 remains sent back by the Japanese Government during 1970-1984.

The 1,188 were among 2,328 remains at Yuten-ji temple near Tokyo. Repatriation was suspended after a protest from bereaved families, who suspected the Japanese Government was moving to put an end to the repatriation issue with the return of the remains kept at the Buddhist temple.

The bereaved families contend that there are about 300,000 bodies remaining to be uncovered on Japanese soil alone. They say "countless" Korean bodies scattered on 13 major battlegrounds in Southeast Asia have never received due attention from the two governments. They remain suspicious that the Japanese Government is less than willing to step up the discovery of Korean remains because it wants to dismiss the issue with the return of the bodies kept at Yuten-ji temple.

A private group in Japan returned in December 1972 the remains of 240 people who died while performing forced labor in a coal mine in northern Kyushu and a Japanese known only as an Ishihara handed over the remains of 219 Koreans in October 1976.

A private Korean organization brought back in 1977 the remains of more than 5,000 bodies uncovered by chance in the Palau Islands in the Pacific.

A group of Japanese high school students recently uncovered the remains of some Koreans and are now returning them to relatives in South Korea.

War bereaved families say that the number of Koreans killed in the Pacific theater during World War II must be

far in excess of the number killed in Japan. Some of them charge that Japan ignored the bodies of Koreans when it staged a massive drive to bring back the dead from overseas after the war.

They say repatriation of remains should be preceded by a thorough survey. The governments of Korea and Japan concluded a political compromise on key post-war arrangements in 1965, but have been criticized as being indifferent to the feelings of bereaved relatives toward Japan.

Tokyo Exchanges Notes on Air Services Accord

SK3003073290 Seoul YONHAP in English 0710 GMT
30 Mar 90

[Text] Seoul, March 30 (YONHAP)—The South Korean and Japanese Governments exchanged notes Friday on amendment of the agreement for air services.

Under the seventh amendment of the agreement, the Seoul-Sendai and Pusan-Sendai routes will be opened up to Korean carriers, bringing the number of lines between the two nations to nine.

Agreement was reached in Tokyo last September to inaugurate service on the routes and to permit Korea's Asiana Airlines to fly to Japan from Jan. 10. The first aviation agreement was concluded in May 1967.

Certain Koreans To Get Resident Status in Japan

SK3103013590 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD
in English 31 Mar 90 p 2

[Text] Tokyo (Special)—The Japanese government has decided to grant permanent resident status to the third-generation Korean residents in Japan as is the practice with first and second generation Korean expatriates, NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN reported here Friday.

However, finger printing, the reentry visa system and forcible repatriation of convicted foreigners, which the Korean government has long insisted discriminate against Korean residents, will basically remain unchanged for sometime, the daily reported.

As to the repatriation of convicted foreigners which now applies to those sentenced to more than seven years in prison, it will be more flexibly operated to extend the prison term to longer than 10 to 15 years, the newspaper reported.

Decision May Affect No's Trip

SK3103044290 Seoul YONHAP in English 0251 GMT
31 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 31 (YONHAP)—The Japanese Government has decided to give third-generation Koreans born in Japan the same permanent resident status as first- and second-generation Koreans but will retain a fingerprinting requirement and deportation

upon conviction of a criminal act, which South Korea had demanded be waived. Japanese newspapers reported Saturday.

The decision is contained in a report drafted by the relevant bureau chiefs of the Japanese Justice Ministry, which has stood tougher than the Foreign Ministry regarding the Korean demands, the reports said. The officials also decided to ease re-entry permit restrictions for Koreans, extending the validity of the permits from the current two years to four years, the reports said.

It was concluded that fingerprinting should be retained on the grounds that the government revised the law to ease the system in 1987, according to the reports. Under the revised law, resident foreigners are required to undergo fingerprinting only once, when they register with the Japanese immigration authorities. Before the revision, they had to undergo fingerprinting every year.

It was also agreed to retain the system of deportation of criminals, under which any resident foreigner who is given a seven-year jail term or more faces expulsion, the newspapers said.

It was concluded that the obligation to carry an alien registration card at all times would be retained on the grounds that the Japanese Government has already eased the system, the reports said.

The conclusions, which will be refined in high-level talks between the two countries, fail to meet the Korean Government's demands and will cast a dark cloud over President No Tae-u's plan to visit Japan in May.

"The Justice Ministry's drafts fall far short of Korea's demands. They may make it unable for President No to visit Japan," a Japanese Foreign Ministry official said when asked to comment.

Korea has demanded abolition of what it calls Japan's "four evil systems"—fingerprinting of all resident foreigners, repatriation of criminals, re-entry permits and the obligation to carry an alien registration card at all times—and hinted that No's trip to Tokyo may not be realized unless the four systems are abolished or the Japanese Government excludes Korean residents from the systems.

But Korean officials have hinted that the matter should be left to the political judgment of the top leaders of the two countries and that a solution could be presented in a meeting between No and Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu during No's visit.

The issue of a so-called guarantee of the legal status of the 600,000 Koreans resident in Japan has been a major source of diplomatic discord between the two countries since they normalized ties in 1965.

Koreans see the system as the symbol of racial discrimination by the Japanese Government, which they claim is responsible for the situation because it forced the

first-generation Koreans to move to Japan during colonial rule over Korea before the end of World War II.

Talks on Resident Status in Japan Scheduled

SK0304032490 Seoul YONHAP in English 0252 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Seoul, April 3 (YONHAP)—Talks between South Korean and Japanese officials on the legal status of third-generation Koreans born in Japan and of their posterity will begin in Tokyo on Saturday, the Foreign Ministry said Tuesday. Kim Chong-ki, director general of the Ministry's Asian Affairs Bureau, and his Japanese counterpart, Sakutaro Tanino, will head their respective delegations to the talks, the third this year.

Discussion is expected to focus on ways to improve the status of Koreans in Japan, an outstanding diplomatic issue that might postpone a visit by President No Tae-u that is reportedly scheduled for late May.

A ministry official said, "There is a possibility the granting of permanent resident status and a few other questions could be solved and the government will make efforts to reach agreements in foreign ministers' talks after one more round of working-level contact."

The official, who declined to be identified, said the Saturday meeting will arrange the foreign ministers' talks and discuss No's itinerary in Japan.

"There is some progress between the two governments regarding compensation for Korean atomic bomb victims during World War II, repatriation of ethnic Koreans from the Soviet island of Sakhalin and cooperation in the fields of high technology and science," he added.

Other demands from Seoul include removal of discriminative systems against Koreans residing in Japan, allowing Koreans to take part in local elections and opening classes for Koreans in Japanese schools. [passage omitted]

A 17-member delegation of Koreans living in Japan called on Foreign Minister Choe Ho-chung Tuesday to express their hope for final settlement of the question of their status during No's visit to Japan.

Choe met the delegation, led by Pak Pyong-hun, and said, "The government is making its best efforts from the viewpoint that smooth agreement on the issue will help cooperative relations between the two nations."

Call for Legal Measures for Koreans in Japan

SK0304013490 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 3 Apr 90 p 8

[Editorial: "Korean Residents in Japan"]

[Text] Geographical proximity between nations is undeniably a factor compelling them to be good neighbors for their mutual benefit. Certainly this is the case with

Korea and Japan, whose relations were normalized more than two decades ago following historical vicissitudes characterized by Japanese colonial rule of Korea during the first half of the century.

Mindful of this, we have consistently made efforts to put the Seoul-Tokyo relationship on a fresh track. President No Tae-u is expected to visit Japan sometime next month to elevate the neighborly ties to a more solid and substantive plane.

Notwithstanding this imperative facing both nations, separated by only a strait, there still remain, in our view, problems that must be resolved to place relations on a firmer footing. We are keenly aware of the necessity, especially in light of how a prejudiced perception of Korea by the Japanese can undermine bilateral amity, as evidenced in the Japanese attitude toward third-generation Koreans in Japan, meaning the descendants of Koreans born in Japan after 1971.

According to reports from Tokyo, the Japanese Foreign Ministry has at long last decided to grant permanent resident status to them as in the case of their children born in the country before 1971. Moreover, it also decided to do away with the fingerprinting requirements imposed on all Korean residents in Japan, a long-standing bone of contention between the two countries.

However, the same reports indicated that the Japanese Ministry of Justice, plus the country's police authorities, is quite reluctant to go along with the Foreign Ministry in repealing the fingerprinting practice for Korean residents and other discriminatory measures such as retaining the right to order a forceful expulsion of Korean residents. This is indeed an overt sign that Japan is still hesitant to enter into a forward-looking partnership with Seoul that will put their unhappy past behind them.

How the Japanese treat Koreans in their country is bound to affect the feelings of Koreans at home toward Japan. It is our belief that the establishment of a lasting friendship and cooperative relations cannot be achieved without a truly remorseful attitude toward Korea among not only Japan's leaders but also the common people of the country. Memories of the unhappy past lingering in the minds of the Korean people are such that they may not be wiped out by mere diplomatic rhetoric.

Fortunately, the foreign ministers of the two countries are scheduled to meet in Seoul April 30 in their annual get-together to discuss pending issues between them. We hope Japan makes it an occasion to show a more affirmative and cooperative attitude on the outstanding issues involving the legal status of the some 700,000 Korean residents in Japan, most of them forcibly brought to Japan to work for the Japanese war industry during World War II. If the Japanese are sincere about being a good neighbor to Korea, now is the time for them to make a political decision on positive, constructive measures to improve the legal status of the Koreans in their land.

ROK, GDR To Establish Trade Offices in 1990

*SK0204122790 Seoul YONHAP in English 1056 GMT
2 Apr 90*

[Text] Seoul, April 2 (YONHAP)—The Korea Trade Promotion Corp. (Kotra) and East Germany's Chamber of Foreign Trade are to exchange trade offices under an agreement on mutual cooperation concluded in East Berlin on Monday, a Kotra spokesman said.

Under the accord, the two will swap trade offices within the year and will exchange trade information, trade missions and economic seminars, the spokesman said.

Kotra expects to set up an office in East Berlin by June, but its East German counterpart is unlikely to establish an office in Seoul until well into the second half of the year, he said.

Government Grants \$12.81 Million Loan to Ghana

*SK3103060090 Seoul YONHAP in English 0550 GMT
31 Mar 90*

[Text] Seoul, March 31 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea decided Saturday to lend 8.997 billion won (12.81 million U.S. dollars) to Ghana for construction of storage facilities for refined oil products.

The won-denominated loan from the government's overseas Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) is for 20 years, including a five-year grace period, at an annual interest rate of 3.5 percent.

Since the EDCF was established in July 1987 for the purpose of helping developing nations, this is the fifth loan. Previous loans were extended to Nigeria, Indonesia, Peru and Fiji.

Preparation for 'All-Direction Diplomacy' Urged

*SK3003003890 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean
28 Mar 90 p 2*

[Editorial: "Rapid Development of Diplomatic Relations and Our Diplomatic Attitude"]

[Text] What we could not even imagine a year ago is taking place in our diplomatic activities.

Following East European countries, we have established diplomatic relations with Mongolia, the first time for such relations with a socialist country in Asia. In addition, we have reached an agreement with the Soviet Union to establish permanent missions by September, which will be headed by ambassadorial-level officials. This shows that our diplomacy is rapidly expanding quantitatively.

The era of so-called all-direction diplomacy toward the whole world is being realized in an expeditious manner. Such change in the situation raises the necessity of an attitude to cope with this change in every way as an urgent task for our diplomatic activities.

The ambassadorial-level diplomatic relations were promptly established with Mongolia, Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria without any diplomatic preparatory stage and without any pledge for economic support or transactions including offering of loans. The diplomatic relations with these countries were established at their request. This shows that our diplomatic ability has been enhanced and fully demonstrated. However, we feel that this was more likely attributed to the trend of great worldwide reform and reconciliation. In addition to the forthcoming visit of a Romanian delegation to Korea for the purpose of establishing the diplomatic relations, Albania, an isolated country in East Europe, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, the African nations that have established exclusive diplomatic relations with North Korea, have also expressed their will to establish diplomatic relations with our country. Thus, our diplomatic network is likely to expand to the whole world with the exception of North Korea and Cuba.

At this point, we need once again to ponder our nation's diplomatic level and capabilities, as well as its preparedness to cope with such a situation. It is true that for a long time our diplomacy was carried out in a distorted way including the pursuit of only anti-communism and the deterrence of North Korea, as well as only strengthening relations with the United States, Japan and other friendly countries.

It is also true that since the seventies, our nation showed a flexible diplomatic attitude by striving to end the North-South competition of attrition to win votes in the United Nations and by pushing ahead with diplomatic activities for neutral nations including the third world. However, viewing the organizational structure and operation of our Foreign Ministry, we can hardly say that the deviations and practices of the past have been completely removed.

Everything from the quality of diplomacy to the attitude of diplomats should be revamped, and with the removal of ideological barriers we should inevitably interact with all nations of the world. If we fail to do so, Korea's diplomacy will undoubtedly be reduced to superficial diplomacy.

First of all, the attitude of diplomats should be renovated. They should have the ability and attitude of more actively approaching the nations they stationed, courageously breaking from a bureaucratic outlook on merely inquiring into ceremonial matters and formalities as they did in the past.

Many people, who traveled overseas, had the experience of being embarrassed by the stubborn bureaucratic attitude shown by our diplomats serving in overseas missions. At the same time, we envied diplomats of other countries, seeing that they devotedly worked for the national interest, whether their act may cause a bit of benefit or damage to a certain individual or business.

Second, the structure of the Foreign Ministry should be reorganized so as to cope with the era of all-direction

diplomacy. All available manpower should be utilized to the maximum and uniformly, and strategic teams should operate according to each district and country, and necessary materials and data should also be obtained. A study should be made to enable civilian organizations and enterprises to use these materials and data.

Next, we would like to stress professionalism and activeness. These should include overall knowledge of the country where they are stationed including the language. Many of our diplomats in the past carried out only limited activities in the countries they were stationed at

due to a lack of professionalism which may be said as a result of so-called circulatory service.

In particular, at a time when a large-scale diplomatic stage which includes the Soviet Union and East Europe has suddenly emerged before us, renovative measures to cope with this situation are urgent. The support for such measures in terms of budget is indispensable.

The relevant authorities should be keenly aware that the key to success in Korea's diplomacy is the promotion of its quality that corresponds to its quantitative expansion.

Burma

Karen, Student Rebels Raid Mokpalin 2 Apr

BK0204151590 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese
1330 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] The KNU [Karen National Union] insurgents have been hampering and disrupting regional peace and tranquility and have indiscriminately been killing innocent people and attacking towns and villages. At 0230 today, about 100 insurgents belonging to the KNU and the ABSDF [All Burma Students' Democratic Front] led by Myint Thein, deputy commander of the KNU's 2d Defense Battalion, raided Mokpalin village in Kyaikto Township.

The insurgents, entering the village from the northeast in two separate groups, attacked the microwave communications station and the railways police hill camp. A People's Police platoon at the microwave station put up fierce resistance. At 0315, however, the insurgents blew up the microwave station and destroyed the base pillars. As a result, the microwave tower dropped about seven feet. At about the same time, some insurgents also attacked the railways police hill camp, where a platoon of the 113th Light Infantry Regiment was stationed. As a result of the attack by the insurgents, two police personnel laid down their lives for the country, while U Soe Tint, officer in charge of the microwave station, was wounded by small arms fire. In addition, the insurgents took Maung Aung Than U, 20, son of night watchman U Maung Gyi, as hostage. At 0330, they retreated toward the northeast in the direction of Pyingadogon village.

As soon as news of the attack was heard, a column headed by the commander of the 2d Infantry Regiment pursued the insurgents. At 0400, the column clashed with the insurgents about a mile north of Mokpalin. The insurgents then retreated to the east. Explosives planted by the KNU destroyed the base pillars of the microwave tower, and communications were temporarily disrupted. Thanks to the immediate repairs undertaken by authorities concerned, however, communications returned to normal at 1100 today. Defense Services columns are pursuing the retreating insurgents.

Information Committee Holds 84th News Conference

BK3103114390 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese
1330 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Excerpts] The Information Committee of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] held its 84th news conference at 1300 today with local and foreign journalists in the reception hall of the Ministry of Defense. [passage omitted] The Information Committee explained that in today's conference, Colonel Than Shwe, Managing Director of Myanmar [Burma] Heavy Industries of the Ministry of Industry-2 will explain matters relating to the forming of the Daewoo Electronic Myanmar Company Limited. This is a joint venture between Myanmar Heavy Industries and Daewoo Company. U Maung Maung Kyaw, Director General of the

Directorate of Trade will explain matters relating to a joint venture between Daewoo Corporation and Myanmar Hotels and Tourist Services for hotel construction, and a joint venture between Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Limited and Daewoo Company. U Kyaw Hlaing, Deputy Director General of the Budget Department of the Ministry of Planning and Finance will explain matters relating to the State Supplementary Budget Law, 1990 and the 1990-91 budget estimates. [passage omitted]

In his explanation U Kyaw Hlaing, Deputy Director General of the Ministry of Planning and Finance Budget Department said the State Supplementary Budget Law 1990, is made up of three main sections. The first is the SLORC, Multi-party Democracy General Elections Commission, Government, Chief Justice, Attorney-General, Auditor-General, Ministries and Departments section. The second is the State Economic Organizations section, and the third is the Development Committees and the Municipalities section. In the first section, the projected net deficit for 1990-91 is estimated at kyat 5,775.1 million, with income estimated at kyat 9,380.6 million and expenditure estimated at kyat 15,155.7 million. In the second section, the projected net deficit for 1990-91 is estimated at kyat 4,504.1 million, with income estimated at kyat 30,785.7 million and the expenditure estimated at kyat 35,289.8 million. In the third section, the projected net deficit for 1990-91 is estimated at kyat 121.0 million, with income estimated at kyat 736.5 million and expenditure estimated at kyat 857.5 million. [passage omitted]

Next, responsible persons concerned answered questions from journalists. [passage omitted] To a question from an ASAHI SHIMBUN correspondent came the reply that the increase in the estimated net deficit of the 1989-90 revised budget is due to the inclusion of estimated expenditures for development activities to assist the SLORC's four main objectives. [passage omitted] The news conference ended at 1400.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Editorial Supports 'Arafat, Palestinian Cause

BK3103090590 Kuala Lumpur BERITA HARIAN in Malay 7 Mar 90 p 10

[Editorial: "Sharing a Dream and the Palestinian Spirit of Struggle"]

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat, President of the Palestinian state made a touching vow last night [6 March] at the Stadium Negara [National Stadium]. Any peace-loving and independent person would definitely be stirred by his speech tinged with confidence. We were overwhelmed at the demeanor, views and struggles of a liberation front leader of an oppressed race involved in a long, drawn out struggle after World War II. We are certainly proud of our national leaders' noble

attitudes and aspirations. Their decisions should be highly respected. We pray for such praise-worthy qualities to be everlasting. Our community would definitely benefit by their wise political and socioeconomic guidance in an effort to protect us from being embroiled in sufferings experienced by the Palestinians.

At the Malaysia-Palestine Solidarity rally held last night, Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed stated that we are saddened by the Palestinians' adversity because they are continuously being oppressed and harrassed by Israel and certain superpowers. Such distress should create an awareness among us that although we are only a small nation we are confidently playing a major role in a humanitarian issue. Besides, we are proud to announce to the world that we will definitely and continuously support the Palestinians in determining their legitimate destiny. We are certain that we have the right to criticize and condemn the superpowers' blatant and abusive attitude. While openly advocating and championing democracy, certain superpowers are simultaneously denying the Palestinians their democratic right to exist as a race.

Our country's firm stand is internationally acknowledged. We are proud that our leaders and numerous social organizations reaffirmed their support for Mr. 'Arafat during last night's rally. The hailing of "Long Live Malaysia" and "Long Live the People of Palestine" by Mr. 'Arafat gave rise to a renewed determination and courage that the Palestinians' struggle was also our struggle in the name of human rights. We are aware that no geographical, racial, or religious boundaries can deny us our struggle for justice, freedom and existence as a race. Thus, we cannot hide our true sentiment on human rights and support for a people branded as a terrorist movement. They will definitely remain our friends. Currently, we are receiving worldwide acclaim for making Western countries aware of humanitarianism. We are proud that our current leaders are able to stand alongside freedom fighters such as Yasir 'Arafat and Nelson Mandela.

In relation to this, we would not feel dejected if our firm opposition to the Palestinian oppression did not benefit us politically and socioeconomically. Assuredly, we still remain a part of the international community. As such, we should not fear threats to our position just because we are voicing our opinions on human rights. We are a part of the international community's voice and strength. We detest oppression and, therefore, we cannot avoid expressing our sentiments against anyone practicing oppression. We have a high respect and value for freedom. We are confident that such a sentiment will transform us into a highly respectable race. In the name of respect, Malaysians should consolidate all their hopes and energy toward establishing an ideal and respectable existence in this era.

We share our confidence with 'Arafat and his colleagues. Our decision was difficult but our minds are free from doubt. We extend our support not because we are against

Jews but because we are absolutely against Zionism, colonialism and neo-colonialism. We consider any regime—such as Isreal—or any superpower which conducts oppression as our enemy. We will continue our struggle by using all our available strength and platform because we share that dream to pray alongside the Palestinians at the Al-Aqsa mosque as vowed by 'Arafat. It is a glorious dream and it is not difficult to realize.

Cambodia

Phnom Penh Troops Seize Khmer Rouge Position

BK0304093090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0923 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] Bangkok, April 3 (AFP)—Troops of the Vietnam-installed Cambodian Government have seized an important resistance forward position in northwestern Cambodia, a Khmer Rouge commander said Tuesday [3 April]. He told Thai reporters at the border that Ta Kong Krau village, one of the Khmer Rouge's most important forward positions, had fallen to government infantry spearheaded by Soviet-built tanks and armoured personnel carriers Thursday. The guerrillas suffered heavy casualties, he said.

Ta Kong Krau is in the Phnum Malai sector, the main Khmer Rouge stronghold south of Thailand's Aranyaprathet border area. The Khmer Rouge, the military backbone of a tripartite resistance coalition, had been using the village as a staging base to launch strikes against Highway 5. The highway runs from Poipet, the Cambodian border town across from Aranyaprathet, to the strategic government supply center of Sisophon, about 50 kilometers to the east, and then southeast to Battambang, Cambodia's second-largest city. The Khmer Rouge commander, who requested anonymity, said the Phnom Penh contingent that overran Ta Kong Krau had come from Sisophon. Khmer Rouge radio, monitored here Tuesday, also reported heavy fighting in the area last week, but said that sorties by tank-supported government troops from Sisophon had been repulsed. The Khmer Rouge commander said Ta Kong Krau fell after a heavy artillery barrage with 130 mm guns, which have a 22-kilometer range, fired on the village from a firebase on Highway 5. He said the guerrillas had destroyed three of Phnom Penh's tanks in the fighting. Thai military officers at Burapha task force based near Aranyaprathet and officers of the supreme command here said they were unable to confirm the report.

The Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge is the strongest faction by far in the resistance, which has the United Nations seat. The resistance has been fighting a government Vietnam installed in Cambodia over 11 years ago after it invaded its southwestern neighbor to topple a Khmer Rouge regime. The guerrillas defending Ta Kong Krau are under the command of Sok Pheap, one the faction's most reputed field officers. They suffered "a number of casualties," the Khmer Rouge commander

said, refusing to give figures for the dead and wounded. The injured had been evacuated to field hospitals in a valley close to a mountain stronghold near Phnum Malai, he said. Ta Kong Krau had been captured by the Khmer Rouge in late December.

The Marxist faction and its non-communist allies gained control of areas along the Thai border at the end of last year after Hanoi's announced pullout of its troops from Cambodia.

Hun Sen Recognized for Completing Higher Studies

BK0204063490 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] On the afternoon of 31 March at the Chamka Mon state palace, the Education Ministry organized a ceremony to present the ministry's decision on recognizing Comrade Hun Sen as having completed higher studies in political science. Attending this ceremony were Comrade Men Sam-an, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the party Central Committee's Organization Commission; Comrade Sar Kheng, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and chef de cabinet of the party Central Committee; Comrade Say Chhum, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; Comrade General Sin Song, alternate member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and interior minister; comrade members of the party Central Committee; and many ministers and deputy ministers.

Speaking on the occasion, Comrade Kong Sam-ol, member of the party Central Committee and vice chairman of the State of Cambodia's Council of Ministers, pointed out that Comrade Hun Sen, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the State of Cambodia's Council of Ministers, has at the same time led the country, studied, and conducted research culminating in a valuable book entitled "Cambodia's 10-Year March, 1979-1989." This work is an important document for the State of Cambodia. It correctly reflects the evolution of the military and political situation before 1979 and the 10 years of social achievements in every field from the 7 January 1979 victory day to 1989. It also points out the path to follow in the future. This work will certainly contribute to the cause of defending and building the Cambodian motherland.

On this basis, the Education Ministry's committee has decided to recognize Comrade Hun Sen as having completed higher studies in political science and as being capable of continuing toward a doctorate degree. This decision is equivalent to a certificate of completion of higher studies. After thanking the Education Ministry, Comrade Hun Sen stressed that he will conduct more research and write a new thesis to serve the task of building and defending the country.

Party Paper Urges Continued Proselytization Work

BK3103124390 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 2300 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Pracheachon commentary: "Together With Attacks Against the Enemy, Proselytization Work Should be Zealously Enhanced"]

[Text] Proselytization work is a political weapon of vital importance along with three other movements, i.e. attacking the enemy, observing their movement, and uprooting the covert enemy. In conjunction with the genuine goodwill of the party and government of the State of Cambodia, we have put forth many policies, including one on national reconciliation, aimed at pooling together the forces of the people inside and outside the country to defend and rebuild the nation toward prosperity.

With the awakened unity of the party, people of all strata have bolstered proselytization work, calling on misled persons to return to the national fold. Party committees, state authorities, proselytization commissions, fronts, and mass organizations at all levels have pulled together efforts to observe the movements of the enemy's officers and rank and file. The policies of our party and state have been absorbed by enemy troops who have defected and rallied to state authorities and people, individually or collectively in groups of thousands, bringing with them thousands of firearms. Many misled persons in league with us have led their peers for mopping-up operations to destroy enemy hideouts and to uncover enemy arms caches. As a matter of fact, in 1989, nearly 7,000 misled persons with over 4,000 firearms returned to their families. It is worth noting that, since the complete withdrawal of Vietnamese volunteer troops by the end of September last year, the Pol Pot-Sihanouk-Son Sann genocidal clique has with temerity and foolishness tried to retake a number of areas in the west of the motherland. It has been defeated, however, on a timely basis.

The promotion of the task of fighting the enemy by our entire party, Armed Forces, and people, have caused enemy troops, chiefly in Banteay Meanchey, Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey, Battambang, and Kompong Thom to surrender in groups of hundreds with a great quantity of guns. This year, in light of the party Central Committee Political Bureau's decision and resolutions adopted at the 9th and 20th sessions, it is imperative that all the party committees, state authorities, armed units, and people continue to fight to bring about the enemy's downfall. It is important that we launch more vigorous attacks against them on the battlefield to bring proselytization work magnificent results. We should, militarily and on the proselytization battlefield, launch attacks. Simultaneously we should urge people, fronts, and mass organizations to be involved, more actively and permanently, to reduce bloodshed and reunify families to enhance happiness in the national society.

Central and local level proselytization commissions should continue to administer and educate misled persons to make them understand the humanity and virtue of our party and government. Party committees and state authorities at all levels and sectors should step up support and assist in enabling misled persons to rejoin families. Encouragement and rewards should be offered to outstanding people and misled persons who have successfully done this. It is imperative to double the necessary measures against those who have used our party and state's policies inappropriately for personal gain or for inducing subversive, destructive activities against society. At present, the Pol Pot-Sihanouk-Son Sann clique are in deep water. In view of this, the entire party, Armed Forces, and people should intensify their fight to completely defeat the enemy.

Swedish Delegation Arrives for Study Visit

*BK0204130490 Phnom Penh SPK in English
1053 GMT 2 Apr 90*

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK April 2—A delegation of the Swedish Committee for Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam headed by Chairman Johan Peanberg arrived in Phnom Penh Friday [30 March] for a six-day visit to Cambodia.

The delegation plans to study the real situation in Cambodia after the complete pull-out of the Vietnamese volunteer troops from the country. It is scheduled to meet with senior Cambodian officials including Kong Sam-ol, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers of the State of Cambodia.

It was received this morning by Ros Chhun, secretary general of the National Council of the United Front for Construction and Defence of the Kampuchean Fatherland.

The delegation will visit Kompong Chhnang Province, [words indistinct] northwest of Phnom Penh, and [words indistinct] the provincial healthcare service.

Delegations Make Visits to Various Provinces

Banteay Meanchey

*BK3103092190 Phnom Penh SPK in French
0406 GMT 31 Mar 90*

[Summary] Phnom Penh, 31 Mar (SPK)—A government delegation led by Kong Sam-ol, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister in charge of the Council of Ministers offices, visited Banteay Meanchey Province on Friday 30 March to assess the situation of war victims.

The delegation included Nhim Vanda, deputy minister of both planning and defense and chief of the General Department of Logistics; Chhea Song, deputy agriculture minister; and Long Visalo, deputy foreign minister and member of the Commission for Coordination with UN Technical Mission. The visit was made a few days after an appeal for aid early this week by the Chairman of

the Council of Ministers Hun Sen who had also inspected the area. Kong Sam-ol was also accompanied by some 20 representatives of various humanitarian and international organizations, including OXFAM [Oxford Committee for Famine Relief], UNICEF, ICRC [International Committee of the Red Cross], CIDSE [Cooperation Internationale Pour le Developement et la Solidarite Economique—Consortium of Catholic Agencies from Various Countries], MCC [Mennonite Central Committee], Handicap International, Enfance Espoir [Hope Children], CRET [expansion unknown], IRRI [International Rice Research Institute], Alliance Francaise [?French Cultural Mission], ACR [?American Refugee Committee], AFSC [American Friends Service Committee], AICF [?Australian Save the Children Fund], and so on, and a dozen of local and foreign reporters.

It Loeu, chairman of the provincial people's committee said to date the number of war victims had reached some 7,000 families with a total of 35,000 people mostly grouped along waterways in Sereisaophoan and Mongkolborei Districts, and in the provincial seat. He said thousands of cattle have been killed and a huge rice field cannot be harvested, not to mention the loss of human lives. It Loeu also specified that since the end of last year, local authorities have distributed relief aid to about 2,000 families. He called on the government, humanitarian and international organizations to immediately send aid for six to eight months.

The delegation and foreign guests also visited war victims in Makak Commune and in the provincial seat.

Stung Treng

*BK3103054090 Phnom Penh SPK in English
0412 GMT 31 Mar 90*

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK March 31—Bou Thang, Politburo member of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea Central Committee and vice premier, has made a tour of Siem Pang District, Stung Treng Province, 250 km northeast of Phnom Penh.

During his meeting with the local population, Vice Premier Bou Thang acclaimed the remarkable achievements recorded by the local people and Armed Forces under the clear-sighted guidance of the State of Cambodia.

He informed them of the successive military victories won by the Cambodian People's Armed Forces after the total Vietnamese withdrawal last year.

The Cambodian leader urged the local authorities and people to make all-out efforts for the just cause of national construction and defence.

During his tour, Vice Chairman Bou Thang also presented gifts to those families with outstanding revolutionary achievements, and contributed more than 3 million riels (Cambodian currency) to the local construction fund.

Ratanakiri

*BK3103071890 Phnom Penh Domestic Service
in Cambodian 0430 GMT 31 Mar 90*

[Text] On the morning of 27 March, a party and state delegation led by Comrade General Bou Thang, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, chief of the General Political Department of the Cambodian People's Army, and chief of the Committee for Developing the Northeast Region, took part in a cordial meeting with core cadres in the provincial party committee, people's committees in the province and districts, and many comrade chiefs and deputy chiefs of services and departments in Ratanakiri Province. On this occasion, the comrade chief of the education service in Ratanakiri Province reported to the delegation on development in the province, particularly in building and expanding villages and communes, building the Armed Forces, fighting the enemy to defend localities, and buying paddy for the state.

In his speech, Comrade General Bou Thang highly appreciated the achievements scored by cadres, combatants, and people in Ratanakiri Province to further develop the locality. Comrade General Bou Thang called on all core cadres to pay further attention to the task of defending and building localities, particularly that of providing a decent life to ethnic minorities. On behalf of the party, state, and the chairman of the Committee for Developing the Northeast Region, Comrade General Bou Thang affirmed further moral and material assistance to Ratanakiri Province to contribute to building an all-around developed and firm province.

VONADK on Bou Thang's Tour in Ratanakiri

*BK0304031890 (Clandestine) Voice of the National
Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian
2315 GMT 2 Apr 90*

[Text] On 28 March [date as heard], the Hanoi Vietnamese aggressors ordered puppet Bou Thang to lead Vietnamese soldiers in puppet soldiers' uniforms and a large number of puppet soldiers on a trip to Ratanakiri Province in order to recruit our people's children to fight and die on their behalf and to rob our people's paddy for use in feeding the Vietnamese war of aggression in Cambodia. Upon his arrival in Lomphat District, except for those vicious administrators, no one else went to welcome Bou Thang. Our people loathed the Vietnamese puppet-lackeys, especially Bou Thang, and condemned them because they have allowed the Hanoi Vietnamese aggressors to massacre our Cambodian people at will, and always looked down upon the people in Ratanakiri Province as beasts.

Indonesia

Minister on PRC Relations After Normalization

*BK3103135190 Jakarta SUARA PEMBARUAN
in Indonesian 16 Mar 90 p 1*

[Text] Jakarta, 16 March—State Minister Secretary Mardiono says after the normalization of diplomatic ties with the PRC, the government's treatment of business activities toward the PRC will be similar to that of other countries.

Mardiono made the remarks at a luncheon organized by the Indonesian Financial Executive Association [four preceding words in English] at the Wisma BNI [Indonesian State Bank Guesthouse] in Jakarta Thursday. "There will be no special treatment," he said. That means that the treatment of PRC goods or ships with crews will be no different from that of other countries.

Speaking to newsmen after the luncheon, Mardiono also said Indonesian citizens wishing to visit the PRC will have to pass through procedures similar to those for visiting other countries. He believed that normalization of diplomatic relations will be realized by the end of this year or early next year at the latest.

Presenting a paper entitled "The Impact of Normalization of Sino-Indonesian Diplomatic Relations on Trade and Investment in Indonesia" at the luncheon, Mardiono said normalization of diplomatic ties will not only affect trade relations between Indonesia and Taiwan, but will also have political and economic effects on Indonesia.

However, he hoped that the normalization would not adversely affect Indonesian-Taiwan trade relations.

Mardiono said the PRC is now the sixth largest importer of Indonesian goods after Japan, Europe, the United States, Hong Kong, and Singapore and that it buys between eight to 11 percent of Indonesia's nonoil and nongas commodity goods.

Under the existing direct trade agreement, Indonesia stands a good chance of increasing its exports to the PRC despite the absence of diplomatic relations. However, Indonesia's competitive edge is disadvantaged by the PRC's discriminatory trade policy.

Vietnam War-Era Weapons Found in Scrap Metal

*BK3003145690 Jakarta TEMPO in Indonesian
24 Mar 90 p 26*

[Excerpts] A Thai-registered freighter berthed at the Berlian Timur pier in Tanjung Perak, Surabaya, last week. The freighter "MV [motorized vessel] Bua Thip" then unloaded 6,870 tons of scrap metal worth \$779,629.62, which was imported by a local steel company, Ispat Indo Co. Ltd.

Strangely, many machine guns and other weapons from the Vietnam War era were found among the scrap metal

and they were circulated in Surabaya markets. Sartono, a trishaw driver, bought a .45 caliber Thompson submachine gun from a scrap metal scavenger for 1,000 rupiah. Hanafi, another scavenger, bought the same item from 13-year-old Hadi for 500 rupiah. Hadi is one of the boys who often collect scrap metal at a warehouse belonging to Ispat Indo Co. Ltd. at Kedungturi Village, Taman Subdistrict, Sidoarjo.

Rumors of an illegal arms trade soon circulated, and security authorities were hard at work. They moved swiftly. Lieutenant Colonel Supardi A.S., chief of Southern Surabaya Police Command, declared that all of the weapons, including three .45 caliber submachine guns and other types of Thompson guns, had been retrieved from civilian security guards at the scrap metal factory. The guards told TEMPO they had seized the weapons from Hadi, the young scavenger.

As of this week, a team under the supervision of the East Java chapter of the Coordinating Agency for Maintaining National Stability has managed to retrieve 332 guns consisting of Thompson submachine guns, AK rifles, mortars, one antiaircraft gun, and 215 rounds of ammunition. The team is still investigating. However, Colonel Sutarto, assistant for intelligence to the Brawijaya Fifth Regional Military Command, said the incident was not politically motivated. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, C. Taher, senior manager of Ispat Indo Co. Ltd., denied any knowledge of weapons in the scrap metal shipment. "To tell you the truth, we cannot give you our stand on this issue," he told TEMPO. The shipment of old weapons was clearly against the scrap metal contract because no weapons should be included.

Syamsul Bakhri, an official of the Tanjung Perak Port, said the shipment of the old weapons was probably caused by a different interpretation of what scrap metal was, noting that in Vietnam, discarded weapons might just be considered scrap metal. Col. Sutarto shared his view, saying: "The way Indonesia and Vietnam treat old weapons is different. We usually crush them first to make them scrap metal, whereas Vietnam simply sells them."

Philippines

Senate Suspends Hearing on U.S. Role in Coup

HK0204135790 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog
1300 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] Out of respect for President Aquino, the Senate has temporarily suspended its hearing on the question of the U.S. participation in the December 1989 failed coup. According to defense committee chairman Senator Ernesto Maceda, the move was taken on the account of the good relations between the Senate and the executive branch. President Aquino's letter to Senate President Jovito Salonga sought a delay in summoning the military officials linked to the coup and let the executive branch

give an official report on the matter first. This is also aimed at allowing for a smooth process in the country's criminal justice system.

Senator Hints That Senate Will Not Allow Bases

HK0304101390 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company
DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Italicized portions in English]

[Text] Senator Jovito Salonga has hinted that the Senate will not ratify any bill that would allow the retention of the U.S. military bases in the country. Salonga told Liberty in Action that pro-military bases advocates might even side with them if they learn that the United States cannot meet the 1-billion-peso yearly rent. He also clarified that the United States could close down its military bases here because of its large budget deficit.

[Begin recording] [Salonga] I understand that the pro-military bases advocates expect *they will get something 1 billion pesos every year*. But you are aware of the events. *I think the Americans are saying: You're crazy if you think you can get that amount of money. In fact, you know that their trade and budgetary deficits are big. More than 86 bases are being closed in the United States. They do not have money.* The pro-bases extension advocates might even decide to join the anti-bases groups because the Americans do not have anything to give.

[Reporter] In other words, they are also closing down military bases in their own country?

[Salonga] *And what is even more important, I just received a communication from the United States yesterday. The congressional leaders, both from the Senate and the House of Representatives, have agreed to reduce the budget for the military by 12 billion dollars. And this could mean either the reduction or the closing of the bases in the Philippines.* [end recording]

Senator Says Aquino Afraid To Oppose U.S.

HK0304092390 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company
DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 3 Apr 90

[By Cesar Chavez of Mobile Unit No. 9—italicized portion in English]

[Text] Senator Wigberto Tanada today disclosed that President Aquino may not be able to fight for the nation's interest in the scheduled talks on the termination of the U.S.-Republic of the Philippines military bases agreement because the chief executive fears that if she opposes the U.S. Government's interest, the latter will not have second thoughts about working for the downfall of her administration.

Tanada, in his privilege speech, said that the issues that should be discussed during the exploratory talks are the fulfillment of the policy of freedom from nuclear weapons, the termination of the military bases agreement, and the drafting of a new and just treaty of

friendship and cooperation. He added that the U.S. Government informed President Aquino of its nuclear weapons in the Philippines. Tanada now challenges her to reveal these things to the people.

[Begin Tanada recording] *There is an unverified intelligence report from Washington that the United States informed President Aquino of the transit here of nuclear weapons recently. In pursuit of the policy of transparency, President Aquino herself must inform our people of her knowledge of the storage, installation, or transit of nuclear or nonconventional weapons and their components in Philippine territory.* [end recording]

After this, Tanada also revealed a confidential memorandum from the U.S. Government stating that it will not exert itself to assist the Aquino government because the latter is weak and too immersed in graft and corruption.

U.S., Japanese Embassies Respond to Threat

Embassies Tighten Security

HK0204114790 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company
DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 2 Apr 90

[By Rey Arquiza of Mobile Unit No. 21—italicized portions in English]

[Text] The U.S. and Japanese Embassies in Manila consider that a New People's Army [NPA] threat against their nationals is serious and they are carrying out security measures for their citizens. In a press statement issued to the media, NPA Chief of Staff Romulo Kintanar said that U.S. personnel and Japanese citizens are targets of assassination squads because their governments are involved in the Philippine government's counterinsurgency drive. *We take all threats seriously.* This was the statement of Victoria Middleton, U.S. Embassy spokesperson. According to Middleton, the U.S. Embassy already knew about the NPA plan against its nationals and they have carried out measures to ensure the safety of their citizens and facilities. She refused to detail the precautionary measures for U.S. diplomats, personnel, and citizens.

Last week, an entry ban was imposed on those who have no official connection with the base. Field trips in the same base have been cancelled.

Councillor Seiichi Kondo of the Japanese Embassy has also stated that their embassy has implemented measures for the safety of their nationals. Like Middleton, Kondo refused to give the details of the precautionary measures because it is a sensitive issue. Over 200 Japanese diplomats and dependents are in the country. There are also 300 Japanese technical experts assigned all over the Philippines.

Kintanar said that some government projects funded by the Japanese government are used in the counterinsurgency. Kondo immediately denied this, saying it has no basis.

In a related development, the Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] is prepared to strengthen the prevailing security system for U.S. and Japanese nationals, especially those involved in development projects, while it outlines plans to neutralize the communist terrorist threat. AFP spokesman Colonel Juanito Rimando said the military intelligence agencies are still evaluating the threat from NPA chief Romulo Kintanar regarding attacks on Americans and Japanese. But he added that the police and military forces are prepared to respond with additional support in 24 hours after receiving their call of security.

[Begin Rimando recording in progress] *...always prepared. So we were talking about ways on attack here. But, nevertheless, questions or pronouncements like this are never just set aside by the AFP. This will have to be evaluated very well by our staff. At any rate, concerning security, you were talking about [changes thought] ... they were pointing particularly to foreigners. The Americans. This is not a new threat to the Americans. And they have (bigger size), enough security, and security as requested by them. All the need basis [as heard] is provided after evaluation.* [end recording]

The AFP spokesman also explained that the rebel threats are ways to show that they are still there. He said that the U.S. and Japanese officials are continuing to negotiate with the government for the security of their nationals. Rimando admitted that he does not know the list of foreigners who could be targets of communist terrorism.

Japanese Envoy Disputes Rebels' Claim

OW0204134490 Tokyo KYODO in English
1158 GMT 2 Mar 90

[Text] Manila, April 2 KYODO—The Japanese Embassy here denied on Monday claims of communist rebels that aid projects funded by Tokyo were being used for the counterinsurgency drive and said guerrilla threats show the success of the projects in easing poverty.

Embassy Counselor Seiichi Kondo told reporters the New People's Army (NPA) allegations were baseless but said security precautions have been taken to ensure the safety of Japanese nationals. "Our policies of aiding the poorest people have been well received by your government and the affected communities themselves," he said.

At the Malacanang Presidential Palace, President Corazon Aquino said her government is doing its best "to every extent possible" to protect foreigners in the country.

Romulo Kintanar, chief of the NPA, the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, Sunday warned

the Japanese Government against using ODA [official development aid] projects for anti-rebel measures.

He said attacks on U.S. military personnel here will intensify as the U.S. Government increases its intervention in the country.

Kintanar cited "information" reaching the NPA that Japanese ODA projects were now part of the government's stepped-up drive to crush the guerrilla movement. He also said certain ODA projects were polluting the environment and denying farmers land to till.

Kondo said measures were being taken to protect Japanese nationals here. "We have taken appropriate measures to protect ourselves and Japanese citizens in the Philippines."

There are about 50 diplomats here and some 200-300 Japanese technical consultants for ODA projects in the Philippines.

Meanwhile, U.S. Embassy Spokeswomen Victoria Middleton-Schrager said "all threats" against their interests were being seriously taken but that no new travel advisories have been issued in response to the most recent NPA threats.

The Philippine Military said it was ready to beef up existing security systems for American and Japanese nationals, especially those involved in development projects in view of the renewed hostilities from the communist rebels. Armed Forces spokesman Col. Juanito Rimando said although the intelligence community was still evaluating the NPA threat, military and police units were ready to respond within 24 hours to any request for additional security assistance from foreigners.

CPP Documents List Foreigners Among Targets

HK0304070590 Manila DIYARYO FILIPINO
in Tagalog 3 Apr 90 pp 1, 6

[By Fer Taboy with report by J. Fortuna]

[Text] It was learned yesterday that drug traffickers and illegal recruiters of overseas workers are the newest targets of the communists.

According to rebel documents recently seized by authorities, the Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP] and its armed group, the New People's Army [NPA] have listed 10 categories of possible targets of attack.

Aside for the two already mentioned above, the others are:

- Strike breakers and saboteurs of labor unions;
- Civilian informers with "blood debts" and those active in the "counterrevolutionary campaign";
- Incorrigible members of the police and paramilitary force;
- Intelligence operatives;
- Soldiers involved in the counterinsurgency campaign;

—"Reactionary" bureaucrats;

—Foreigners involved in the campaign against the rebels;

—Military stations and installations.

The documents taken from a CPP-NPA safehouse in Pasay City that was raided by the military also deleted from the list such previous targets of communist guerrillas as bridges, dams, electric plants, hospitals, churches, schools, and civilian installations. However, included in the list are foreign troops involved in the counterinsurgency campaign and even U.S. installations in the country.

In the case of civilian and diplomatic personnel, permission for any kind of assassination has to come from the Central Committee and the Executive Committee of the CPP, the highest organs for secret operations. The documents also stated that abduction for ransom is strictly forbidden.

The military disclosed the confiscated documents a day after the NPA high command threatened to intensify attacks in urban areas.

Last week, NPA Chief of Staff Romulo Kintanar also warned that U.S. military personnel and development projects funded by the Japanese Government believed to be involved in the counterinsurgency campaign will be targeted for attack by the rebel movement. The NPA released Kintanar's statement three days after the rebel armed group marked its 21st anniversary.

The NPA was organized by a newly-revived CPP on 29 March 1969 and was composed at that time of 32 units in Central Luzon. Based on the latest military estimates, the total number of the armed rebels stands at 19,000. The CPP has been waging a struggle to establish a Marxist state in the Philippines for almost two decades.

Meanwhile, the U.S. and Japanese Governments yesterday showed that they are not taking the NPA threats lightly. Security measures in the embassies of these two countries in Manila were tightened, and their personnel and nationals were instructed to remain on alert. "We take all threats seriously, and we have always known of the great threats against U.S. Government officials and facilities," said Victoria Middleton, U.S. Embassy spokesman.

On the other hand, the Japanese Embassy in Makati denied that Tokyo's official development aid is being used in the Aquino government's counterinsurgency campaign. The Embassy's Seiichi Kondo also said that appropriate measures have been taken to protect Japanese nationals in the country, but he refused to elaborate. Kondo added that Japan hopes that the aid extended to the Philippines will "benefit the Philippine people."

IMF Team Cancels Mission; Fears Assassinations

HK0204130190 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER in English 1 Apr 90 p 17

[By Oscar Quiambao]

[Text] The International Monetary Fund has decided to cancel the scheduled trip to Manila of key officials who were assigned to determine whether the Philippines complied with commitments to the Fund during the first quarter of 1990. Sources said the IMF executive board was worried that members of the review team would become assassination targets. The IMF has been blamed by both leftists and rightists for imposing harsh conditions on the Philippine economy.

It was not clear if the IMF decision was linked to the reported plan of the communist New People's Army to launch a summer offensive in Metro Manila. Newspapers have reported that more than one battalion of communist guerillas has infiltrated Metro Manila.

Central Bank [CB] Gov. Jose Cuisia Jr. confirmed an INQUIRER report on Friday that scheduled meetings in Manila between IMF and Philippine officials had been called off for "security reasons." The alternative plan was to hold the meeting in Hong Kong. But the IMF later decided that the meeting should take place instead in Washington.

However, Cuisia said the change in venue will enable the Philippine debt negotiating panel to transact more business in the US. From the IMF headquarters in Washington, Cuisia said the group will proceed to New York to get some insight from investment houses regarding the revival of the debt-to-equity program.

Sources in the international banking community also disclosed that the IMF executive board feared that the IMF mission might be caught again in the middle of a military coup. It will be recalled that a team from the Fund was in Manila during the failed coup in August 1987.

The sources explained that the "coup mentality" in the IMF board was planted by "old intelligence materials" supporting the high possibility of another coup. "It appears that the board has not fully digested the current flow of events here and of the improbability of a successful coup," the foreign banker said.

Cuisia said that a mission could probably come to Manila after the "consultations" are concluded in Washington. According to CB sources, discussions in Washington will concentrate on technical issues and statistics. And if the mission visits Manila after the consultations, the sources said that policy issues concerning major economic measures will be discussed.

The CB sources said that it would have been "less suspicious" if policy discussions which are done after technical issues are cleared up and which usually involve only top officials were to be discussed in Washington. It

appears that the Fund can't wait to review government compliance on the targets, but is afraid to take the security risk.

Cuisia and Finance Secretary Jesus P. Estanislao left for the US last Saturday.

Soviet Envoy Reaffirms Foreign Policy Goals

HK0204135190 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE
in English 1 Apr 90 p 3

[By staff member Chay Florentino]

[Text] Soviet Ambassador Oleg Sokolov Friday reiterated his call for the reduction of arms levels to ensure genuine security worldwide. "Security can no longer be assured by military force or by a balance of terror. The arms race...breeds continuing destabilization of international relations and eventually leads to conflict," Sokolov said in a speech before the Manila Jaycee Senate.

To continue dividing the world into spheres of influence, Sokolov said, is "historically pointless". Thus, the Soviet Union has chosen to withdraw its soldiers and military hardware from Afghanistan and the southeast Asian region, particularly Cam Ranh Bay in Vietnam.

Threatened by secessionist movements in the Baltic states and confronted with the Lithuanian problem, the Soviet Union is taking a non-confrontational approach, according to Sokolov. "We do not intend to use force to resolve this problem. Our weapon is dialogue. It is a strong weapon, and in that sense we are not going to disarm," he said.

Given a rapidly changing world, Sokolov said Moscow had decided on putting primacy on peace and universal human values as its "supreme purpose of foreign policy". He said the Soviet Union now stands for "deideologization, humanization and demilitarization of international relations."

Military solutions to international disputes are "impossible and should be discarded," he said.

The emergence of this new thinking within the old Soviet system is a result of a protest against the "ugly deformities of the Stalin era," he added. Perestroika, Sokolov said, is an "all-out effort to rid the country of those crude perversions of our original values and to give the Soviet people a prospect of decent life and worthy place in their own nation and in the world community".

The living standards of the Soviet people "did not correspond" to the level of industrial, scientific and technological growth of the country. He said that while the Soviet Union is the world's largest producer of steel, raw materials, fuel and energy, inefficient and wasteful use had resulted in inadequate supplies.

Manglapus Pushes for Ibero-Asia-Pacific Forum

*HK3103082290 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE
English 31 Mar 90 p 6*

[By Chay Florentino]

[Text] Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus is pushing for the creation of an Ibero-Asia-Pacific forum to strengthen cooperation and democratic institutions in the Western Pacific, a report from Guam said yesterday.

Manglapus is visiting Guam, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands and the Commonwealth of the Marshall Islands. He left last Thursday and will be back on April 6.

A ranking source at the foreign office said that these countries and the Philippines are "all part of the forward deployment strategy of the U.S." and are crucial in the protection of the U.S. mainland. The creation of an Ibero-Asia-Pacific forum would be a means of counteracting American influence.

Upon arrival in Guam Thursday afternoon, Manglapus described his official visits to the Western Pacific countries as a "sentimental journey" to a region intimately bound to the Philippines by ties of geography, language and religion.

A press statement released by the foreign office said there are "various prospective areas of cooperation" between the Philippines and the Pacific Island states, particularly in the areas of technological and management assistance, training, consumer and industrial goods exports, construction and manpower services.

The proposed Ibero-Asia-Pacific forum is distinct from the Ibero-American Conference which was organized for cultural, scientific and economic cooperation, the statement also said.

Manglapus also said that although it is not the purpose of his trip to see reported alternative base sites in these areas, he would be interested to hear any "serious information" about possible relocation plans by the U.S. in these countries.

Extradition Pact With Micronesia Concluded

*HK0304041190 Manila BUSINESS WORLD
in English 3 Apr 90 p 12*

[Text] The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) yesterday announced the signing last April 1 of an extradition treaty between the Philippines and Micronesia. Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus is currently on a swing of the emergent republics of the West Pacific.

Micronesia President John Haglelgam, who welcomed Mr. Manglapus to Ponapei, expressed "deep appreciation for the Philippine recognition of the Micronesia state, the prompt designation of a resident Philippine envoy...and the continuing friendship of the Filipino people." DFA dispatches stated.

Responding to the President's remarks, Mr. Manglapus described his "sentimental journey" to a nation with which the Philippines shares a mutual historical, cultural and religious heritage. He recalled that the Spaniards had first called the Caroline Islands of Micronesia "Insulate Novae Philippinae" or "New Philippine Islands." The only other territory which was called "Nueva Filipinas," Mr. Manglapus remarked, is the present-day Texas. This statement was reportedly greeted with applause by the guests present, some of whom were Americans from Texas.

Diplomatic Relations

Interestingly enough, the Philippines occasioned the establishment of Micronesia's first diplomatic relations with Latin America. Manila-based Chilean charge d'affaires Jorge Mora, who accompanied Mr. Manglapus on his trip, signed a protocol establishing diplomatic relations between the FSM [expansion unknown] and Chile with Micronesia Foreign Minister Andon Amaraich. President Hagleman and Mr. Manglapus stood as witnesses.

In their remarks after the protocol signing, both Messrs. Amaraich and Mora thanked the Philippines and Mr. Manglapus for making the historic occasion possible through the latter's invitation extended to the Chilean charge d'affaires to join his party.

The Philippine delegation, which included Foreign Affairs Secretary for Economic Affairs Edgar Kalaw, Counselor Lino Guerrero, representative to the Asian Development Bank Victor Limlingan and industrialist Patricio Lim, met with the Micronesia trade and economic minister and businessmen to discuss the expansion of trade and economic cooperation.

Reportage on Reshuffle in Military Command

Biazon Assumes Number Two Post

*HK3103044490 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan
in Tagalog 0400 GMT 31 Mar 90*

[Text] Brigadier General Rodolfo Biazon, chief of the National Capital Region Defense Command, assumes the second highest position in the military after Armed Forces chief General Renato de Villa today. Biazon's promotion to the two-star rank position of vice chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines gives him a very good chance of succeeding De Villa after the latter's completion of his three-year tour of duty next year.

Meanwhile, General de Villa presided over today's testimonial parade in honor of retiring officials belonging to the Philippine Military Academy's Class of 1958. Leading the retirees were former PC-INP [Philippine Constabulary-Integrated National Police] chief Major General Ramon Montano, former Army chief Major General Manuel Cacanando, and former vice chief of staff Admiral Emerson Tangan.

Reshuffle Said To Create 'Coup Jitters'

HK3103082690 Manila MANILA STANDARD
in English 31 Mar 90 p 9

[From "Straight from the Shoulder" Column by Luis D. Beltran: "Weekend coup jitters"]

[Text] A few people are having coup jitters as the result of the sudden movement in the positions of commanding generals of the major services in the armed forces.

Almost a month back, a decision was apparently made in Malacanang to "advance" the retirement of the commanders of the major services, starting with the army, where Brig. Gen. Guillermo Flores was tapped to retire Maj. Gen. Manuel Cacanando. Flores' appointment was a second major jump for the general, who may be qualified, but whose first assignment to the Southern Command reportedly embittered the more senior Brig. Gen. Alejandro Galido of the Southern Luzon Command.

The second movement was in the Philippine Air Force [PAF], where the recommendee of Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos and AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] chief of staff Gen. Renato de Villa was reportedly Brig. Gen. Joven Abadia, who was operations chief against the coup plotters last December and who personally flew a helicopter into the combat zone, where his crew members were wounded when the Sikorsky gunship was hit by ground fire. Abadia, however, was not appointed. Instead, Brig. Gen. Gerardo Protacio was appointed, apparently because he is a graduate of the ROTC and PAF Flying School, not the Philippine Military Academy.

These two changes in the AFP major commands were followed by the appointment of Comm. Mariano Dumangcas as flag officer in command of the Philippine Navy, a promotion which bypassed the most senior navy officer, Comm. Pio Garrido, who reportedly was not loyal enough—and who was so disheartened he went on leave after the announcement of the Dumangcas promotion.

This event was followed this week by the promotion of Brig. Gen. Cesar Nazareno as commanding general of the Philippine Constabulary [PC] and director-general of the PC/INP [Integrated National Police]—to the demoralization of Brig. Gen. Alexander Aguirre, chief of the Capital Command, another Ramos-De Villa recommendee.

Nazareno, by the way, is considered to be at least as qualified as Aguirre by Malacanang evaluators, who point out that Nazareno has done duty all over the archipelago and therefore has more hands-on experience in the provinces than Aguirre does.

In all four major commands, the perception in military—as well as political and business-circles is that all four choice for service commanders were made by President Aquino on the basis of advice given by political

and Palace advisers—something which General De Villa himself points out is the "prerogative of the Commander-in-Chief." However, the interpretation being given is that all the promotions—with the exception of Flores—ran contrary to the recommendations of Ramos and De Villa, and the traditional wisdom on the matter is that Ramos is being cut down to size, preparatory to his ouster before the 1992 election, for which he considered a front-running presidential aspirant.

The reason for the early deglamorization of Ramos, Palace political advisers say, is that in the event President Aquino runs for re-election, they do not want Ramos to "pull a Magsaysay," that is, to join a political party and run against her. Even according to Malacanang polls, Ramos is proving to be more popular than the President.

The appointment of Nazareno, by the way, reinforces a perception that President Aquino favors officials and military officers who went to Malacanang during the Dec. 1 coup attempt. Nazareno went to Malacanang directly from his Camp Olivas headquarters to beef up the military defense of the Palace with his own troops. It is said that this is what tilted the choice for the top PC post in his favor. A police official, Col. Totoy Diokno, who made it a point to rush to defend Malacanang during the coup with SWAT teams from the Western Police District [WPD] was subsequently chosen WPD superintendent over more senior police officers. In fact, it is said that Metro Manila Governor Elfren Cruz was elevated to Cabinet rank as Presidential Management Staff Secretary because he spent the whole coup period in Malacanang, while Agrarian Reform Secretary Miriam Defensor Santiago was "fired" because she waited in her house to be informed of a contingency plan against any coup—a plan which apparently did not exist. The Cabinet "flavor of the month," Justice Secretary Franklin Drilon was also among the earliest to arrive at the Palace after the coup started. This is reportedly the reason for his appointment as Justice Secretary, preparatory to his being named Executive Secretary when Catalino Macaraig retires in June.

If there ever is another coup, these promotions suggest that there will be a rush to Malacanang of Cabinet and sub-Cabinet officials as well as the heads of military and police units—all wanting to be seen by the President.

Adding to the coup jitters is the speculation among political observers that there may be continuing disenchantment over the fate of Maj. Gen. Ramon Montano, PC/INP chief, whose unit stood united against the coup attempt. Montano had hoped to become head of the projected Philippine National Police, but apparently, there was not enough effort to pass the bill during the current congressional session or to overcome the opposition of Sen. Ernie Maceda—who has since then shown that he can be charmed by the President into agreeing to even such an unpalatable political item as the P5-billion oil subsidy fund. As a result, Montano may be left high and dry by tomorrow, when he retires, although the news

is he is going to be appointed Customs Commissioner—something that is not certain, given the massive support Customs Commissioner Salvador Mison has inside the Palace.

Besides the changes in the service commands, the promotion of Brig. Gen. Rodolfo Biazon, chief of the National Capital Region Defense Command, to vice chief of staff, also appears to be an un-Ramos move, since the name of Brig. Gen. Arturo Enrile, superintendent of the Philippine Military Academy, had been floated earlier as a move to quiet the restive young officers, with whom Enrile apparently enjoys good rapport. Biazon's promotion was a Palace move, but a popular one, since he has emerged as the single most effective combat officer on in the government side against coup plotters—although he is among the most junior generals.

All these things have made this weekend a nervous time for a lot of people—legislators and other government officials and businessmen—some of whom have started their Holy Week vacation a week early by departing for foreign climes.

Rivalry for Control Reported

HK0204043790 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE
in English 2 Apr 90 pp 1, 3

[By staff member Manny Mogato]

[Text] Major changes in the military leadership, brought about by the retirement of at least 20 senior generals and colonels last week, have triggered an intense rivalry among political forces comprising the Government's large but loose ruling coalition and the emergence of new power blocs in the Armed Forces.

The rivalry among diverse political forces, particularly those that came into power after Marcos had fled to Hawaii, is primarily for the control of the Armed Forces. The emergence of new power blocs, on the other hand, came as supporters and sympathizers of the opposing political groups began to realign themselves. At least two major opposing political forces are seen to be contesting over the control of the 160,000-strong Armed Forces. One group is deeply entrenched in the military while the other is composed of landed traditional politicians who are closely identified with Malacanang.

The reorganization in the military this week would show how the two opposing forces try to balance each other's power, seeking to prevent the concentration of power in one particular group only. The balancing of power between the two forces could be seen as a way of checking the growing political power one group has over the other.

The Marcos bloc, which has been long in control of the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines], is out in the power game this time. Many officers who were closely identified with the bloc have been retired and given less sensitive assignments. Others preferred to get out from the service. Only a few

"Marcos boys" survived the realignment of forces and those that survived were "brilliant" officers. Others had to toe the line for survival.

Another group which had been checked was the faction loyal to former defense minister Juan Ponce Enrile. Although, many of his diehards are still with the military, they have been described by senior officers as "professionals."

Those who [were] fiercely loyal stayed out, attempted several coups but were rejected.

Although senior military officials denied that there have been power groups emerging in the military organization, there have been clear pattern demonstrating the concentration of power in a particular group of military officers. For instance, members of the PMA [Philippine Military Academy] class 1962 have been given key and sensitive posts despite the presence of more senior officers belonging to PMA classes 1959 to 1961. At least four members of the class are now sitting in the AFP joint staff, two are PC regional commanders, an Army division commander, and about half a dozen occupying high staff and command positions. Another younger PMA class, those belonging to batch 1966, have also been given heavier tasks. At least five of the class members are now brigade commanders while the others are serving general staff positions in the Army and Navy. The two PMA classes, 1962 and 1966, were both closely identified with a powerful government official who is also considered to be a tough and top presidential candidate in 1992.

A group of politicians, however, was slowly building up its own mass base within the military organization. The group has started to make their presence felt as they were able to work for the appointment of their two prodigees in two key command positions.

The group was also preparing for another prodigy to be named in another key position as Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Renate S. de Villa bows out of service on January next year. The group hoped to put in De Villa's place an officer close to them to complete the control of the entire AFP.

The opposing group, however, has been planning of its own moves to avoid a shut-out. The group might make use of the younger officers by placing them in key positions at the various command levels, like Army division and brigade commands.

Editorial on New Leadership

HK0204043390 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE
in English 2 Apr 90 p 4

[Editorial: "New AFP Leadership will need luck, prayers"]

[Text] A new batch of officers has taken over the helm of the Armed Forces following the retirement of 19 generals, members of PMA [Philippine Military Academy]

Class 1958, who have dominated the policies of the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] for the past several years.

There is no doubt that the new officers are coming in prepared; the long wait for promotion to the top did a lot to hone their skills. But considering the peculiar times the country is in, the new officers will probably need more than just skills. They will probably need a lot of good luck to match the challenges of their new jobs. And a lot of prayers, too, which we're sure a citizenry concerned about the country's bleak outlook will only be too glad to offer.

The primary challenge, of course, is to help unify their fractious organization before it totally disintegrates. The causes of disharmony are many—divided loyalties, graft and corruption, and favoritism, among others. Their predecessors, with the exception of a few who fell by the wayside, tried valiantly but failed in their effort. We all know what that failure cost—six bloody coup attempts against President Aquino and a considerable setback in our efforts at economic recovery.

But the new officers must not be daunted; they must keep trying to help solve the AFP's problems before time runs out on all of us. Already, the cleavages in their ranks have taken their terrible toll on the all-important counterinsurgency campaign. Soldiers, instead of being sent to pursue communist guerillas in the countryside or in their redoubts in the cities, are now being harnessed to hunt down fellow soldiers who have also taken to the hills and are now waging a similarly vicious war against the government.

The results of this new strain on the strength of the Armed Forces have been disastrous. The past week alone, the communist guerillas were able to bring the fight to Metro Manila. A band of terrorists swooped down on a CAPCOM [Capital Regional Command] detachment in Novaliches, Quezon City, and in the firefight that followed a soldier and a suspected guerilla were killed. About two days later, NPA [New People's Army] Sparrows shot it out with soldiers in Sta. Mesa, just two kilometers from Malacanang. Another report said about 1,000 Sparrow hit men have infiltrated the metropolis to launch murder missions as part of the communists' summer offensive. In the provinces, while our armchair generals invariably boast of successes in the counterinsurgency campaign, the reports from the frontlines show that such is not the case.

It is everyone's hope that Gen. Renato S. de Villa, the chief of staff, and Defense Secretary Fidel V. Ramos, the principal architects of the counterinsurgency campaign, will listen to the ideas of our new officers. On them and their dedication and loyalty may lie the full realization of the country's dream of peace.

Nazareno To Replace Montano in Constabulary

*HK2903105990 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company
DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 29 Mar 90*

[By Vic Pambuan—italicized portion in English]

[Text] Brigadier General Cesar T. Nazareno will be named as the new Philippine Constabulary-Integrated National Police [PC-INP] chief tomorrow afternoon here at Camp Crame. He is replacing retiring PC-INP Chief Brigadier General Ramon Montano. Nazareno is a Philippine Military Academy graduate of the Class of 1961. He earned many medals during his service as a provincial commander in 1972 to 1978 in the provinces of Surigao del Sur, Lanao del Norte, and Sulu Constabulary Command. At present, Nazareno is the Region 3 commander and has an impressive service record in the government. His command supported government troops in the failed December coup. Nazareno is from Naic, Cavite, was born on 5 December 1939, and is married to Dolly Yu Nazareno and has four children.

General Renato de Villa will be a guest at the change of command and will witness the turnover of leadership to Nazareno. Here is PC-INP spokesman Colonel Cris Maralit with more details:

[Begin recording] *Tomorrow, actually, we will be having a new chief of Constabulary and director general of the Integrated National Police with the retirement of General Ramon Montano. He will be replaced by Brigadier General Cesar Nazareno, the concurrent commander of PC-INP Regional Command 3 based in Camp Olivas, Pampanga. The actual turnover of command will be held tomorrow at 4 PM [0800 GMT] here at the Camp Crame parade grounds with General Renato de Villa, the chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. [end recording]*

Finance Secretary Accepts Debt Repudiation Idea

*HK3003091190 Quezon City MALAYA in English
30 Mar 90 pp 1, 3*

[By Romy Tangbawan]

[Text] Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao said yesterday he does not object to the repudiation of the country's foreign debts "as long as this is done within the ambit of international law."

At his confirmation hearing before the Commission on Appointments, Estanislao said new and innovative approaches to the debt problem have to be adopted because foreign debt has become a political rather than a strictly commercial issue.

The committee on finance headed by Rep. Lorna Verano-Yap (LP [Liberal Party], Pasay) endorsed the confirmation of Estanislao after his appearance. His nomination will be taken up Wednesday during the last plenary session of the commission before Congress takes a one-month recess.

Estanislao, departing from the conservative stance of his predecessors—the late Jaime Ongpin and Vicente Jayme—said some loans obtained by the previous government should be repudiated, especially those surrounded by anomalies.

He warned, however, against “reckless” repudiation, citing the experience of Brazil which can no longer borrow from foreign financial institutions after it was declared in default by creditors.

Estanislao also said the import liberalization policy should be reviewed with an eye to restricting the importation of unnecessary products. He said among the sectors hurt by import liberalization is the fruit industry which is reeling from the flood of imported apples, lychees and other temperate fruits.

But he said the government should guard against over-protectionism as this could lead to retaliation against the country's export products.

Also to be tackled by the Commission on Appointments on Wednesday are the nomination of Agrarian Reform Secretary Florencio Abad and the promotion of Brig. Gen. Rodolfo Biazon, National Capital Region Defense Command chief, Brig. Gen. Gerardo Protacio, Air Force chief, and brig. Gen. Guillermo Flores, Army commander, to major general.

Retired General Testifies on Galido-Honasan Ties

*HK0204063190 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan
in Tagalog 0500 GMT 2 Apr 90*

[Italicized portion in English]

[Text] A retired general from the Solcom [Southern Luzon Command] testifying before the Senate committee on defense today revealed information about retired General Alejandro Galido. Retired Brigadier General Raul Aquino claimed that Galido allegedly let go of a chance to capture Gregorio Honasan in January 1989. More report from Jojo Ismael.

[Begin recording] [Ismael] Aquino admitted before the Senate committee that he wondered whether Galido supported Honasan and that his doubts increased when he was removed by Galido as commanding general of the second army division under the Solcom. Gen Aquino added that he reported directly to AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] chief General Renato de Villa on Galido's suspected ties with Honasan. However, De Villa then told him that Galido was an agent of the AFP.

[Aquino] *When I checked it with the chief of staff, the chief of staff admitted that he was really reporting to him. [passage indistinct] That is why that made me a little confused because, as division commander, I should also know this. [end recording]*

Young Officers Union Issues Statement 1 Apr

*HK0204041790 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY
GLOBE in English 2 Apr 90 p 2*

[By Dionisio Pelayo]

[Text] A group of rebel military officers called on all armed groups in the country yesterday to unite and fight foreign domination while at the same time rejecting any foreign ideology.

A statement issued by the Young Officers Union (YOU) signed by Capt. Carlos Maglalang of the First Scout Ranger Regiment said, “Let us all bear in mind that we shall undertake the task of national liberation not for the sake of any other ‘ism’ repugnant to our very own Filipinism.” The statement was issued on the occasion of the New People's Army's 21st anniversary last March 29.

Maglalang said the YOU and its allied revolutionary organizations “declare our willingness to unite with other military forces to finally end foreign domination, exploitation and oppression in the Philippines.” YOU was one of the rebel military organizations which launched the foiled December 1, 1989 coup attempt. It was founded in August 1988 and it counts on company grade officers for its members.

In its statement, the YOU also called on the communist movement “to desist from targetting the ordinary Filipino soldier as enemy of the revolution because the Filipino soldier (save the few incorrigible generals of the Ramos-De Villa clique) have constantly exhibited their principled refusal to defend the status quo.”

“The Filipino soldiers have come to realize that to defend the status quo is to wage an unjust war against the suffering people. Killing a soldier who shares the same passion as the ‘partisan’ for a national liberation will only delay the victory of the Nationalist Revolution,” the statement said.

Maglalang added: “We also call upon the rest of the officers and men in the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] to abandon the corrupt, vindictive, isolated, incompetent puppet Aquino regime and the mercenary military leadership so that we can all together build a nationalist government and attain a genuinely free, just, democratic and progressive Philippines in the soonest possible time and in the most peaceful way.”

The statement also claimed that despite claims of the AFP that the December coup attempt weakened the military campaign against the communist movement, “the December 1 movement had rather set back the communist movement as a result of the emergence of nationalist forces as viable alternative.”

Official Questions Union

*HK0204102590 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company
DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 2 Apr 90*

[By Eloi Aquino of Mobile Unit No. 12]

[Text] A high-ranking military official has expressed doubt over the formation of the Young Officers' Union [YOU], a new secret organization in the Armed Forces. It is composed of lieutenants, captains, and majors. Brigadier General Lisandro Abadia, Armed Forces of the Philippines deputy chief of staff for operations, said that the YOU could be the Reform the Armed Forces Movement's [RAM] ploy to recruit new members. According to him, the RAM has lost credibility after it made an alliance with the loyalists. He said that the YOU's propaganda blitz could be part of the RAM's gambit to confuse young and idealistic military officers as they plan for a new destabilization attempt against the government.

In a statement issued by the YOU, they are requesting revolutionary organizations to unite and put an end to foreigners' domination, exploitation, and oppression. The statement was signed by a certain Captain Carlos Maglalang, who claims he is a member of the 1st Scout Ranger Regiment. The YOU also asked the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army to avoid targeting ordinary Filipino soldiers because the latter, who are on the side of Ramos and De Villa, refuse to defend the status quo.

Abadia expressed doubt that the YOU is a formal and duly instituted organization of company grade officers. He added that Captain Maglalang, the YOU spokesman, could be two or three individuals who are linked to the RAM.

Central Visayas Constabulary 'Supported' Rebels

HK3103082890 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER in English 31 Mar 90 p 7

[By Cerwin T. Eviota]

[Text] Cebu City—Most of the officers and enlisted men of the Constabulary in Central Visayas sympathized with and even supported the rebel soldiers who almost succeeded in its attempt to topple the Aquino government in December last year. Thus declared PC [Philippine Constabulary] Maj. Rolando Irrizari during his testimony before the Davide Fact-finding Commission Thursday afternoon, the second day of its special hearing to look into the circumstances that led to the failed coup in Cebu.

"Kahit buksan mo ang mga puso nila [even if you open their hearts] (Recom [Regional Command] 7 officers and men), they're with the rebel soldiers," said Irrizari, who was relieved as commander of the 348th PC Company based in Mandaue City, following reports that his unit defected to the rebels at the height of the Dec. 1 coup attempt.

Irrizari briefly served as Recom 7 general staff secretary after his relief and, in a virtual promotion, was designated as deputy commander and executive officer of the Regional Special Action Force (RSAF 7), the striking force of the PC.

Asked by commission chairman Hilario G. Davide Jr. why he made such declaration, Irrizari said he had the impression from his talks with fellow officers and the enlisted men "which the media could never get as nobody (PC soldier) would dare tell it to them."

Irrizari, who waived his right to have a counsel of his choice or accept the services of a lawyer offered, also named at least five officers whom he claimed sympathized with the rebels. They are 1st Lt. Cecil Sandalo, commander of the 342nd PC Company based in Bogo town; 1st Lt. Augusto Marquez, regional operations center chief; Maj. Raymundo Padua, Cebu Metrodiscom intelligence chief; capt. Fernandez, commander of CAFGU [Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit] units in Metro Cebu; and Maj. Antonio Poveda, who is now assigned in Manila.

Sandalo, who also testified Thursday, denied Irrizari's allegations. He said Irrizari's statement was only his own opinion or impression because he was once an aide of rebel officer Brig. Gen. Edgardo Abenina.

In a talk with the INQUIRER, commissioners Christian Monsod and Ricardo Romulo said the names mentioned by Irrizari will be submitted to AFP chief of staff Gen. Renato de Villa for appropriate action.

Meanwhile, PC Brig. Gen. Mariano L. Baccay Jr., then commander of Recom 7 and now commands Recom 11 based in Davao City, also testified before the commission early Thursday afternoon. In his testimony, Baccay disclosed that he called Recom 7 chief Brig. Gen. Raul Imperial by long distance during the December putsch from his office in Davao and advised the latter to monitor the activities of certain officers who, he said, may support the rebels. But unlike Irrizari, Baccay refused to name names. Baccay further said he advised Imperial to check and get in touch with his classmates, Brig. Gen. Jose Comendador and Commodore Edgardo Gallos, to coordinate their efforts in countering any move of the rebel soldiers. However, he said, he had no suspicion that Comendador was with the rebel side.

The commission noted that the Philippine flag in camps where Irrizari served as commanding officer were inverted with the red side up. The first was during the failed Aug. 28, 1987, coup when he commanded a PC company in Siquijor, while the second was during the last coup when he commanded the 348th PC Company.

Irrizari, however, said he would always follow the chain of command even if this would defect to anti-government forces. "If Recom 7 declares its support for RAM [Reform the Armed Forces Movement] (in case of another coup), yes I will follow," he said in answering a question raised by Monsod.

Rebel-Separatist Offensive in Mindanao Feared

HK0204044190 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER in English 2 Apr 90 pp 1, 9

[By Cynthia de Leon]

[Text] Cagayan de Oro City—The reported sighting of Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan and other putsch leaders in three Northern Mindanao cities and frequent meetings between separatists and rebel soldiers have bolstered fears of an impending offensive led by renegade Col. Alexander Noble.

Military authorities would not confirm the reported sighting of Honasan in Butuan City last February, in Iligan two weeks ago and in this city last March 28. Civilian sources, however, said three rebel officers held a marathon meeting with military personnel in an Iligan restaurant on March 26 and 27.

The officers distributed in military camps copies of a manifesto of the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabansa (RAM) [Revolutionary Alliance of the Masses] entitled "Our Dreams Shall Never Die," said a civilian source, who gave the INQUIRER copies of the manifesto. It said RAM offers the country "not the tarnished vision of EDSA [Epifanio de Los Santos Avenue] 1986, cheapened beyond recognition by this administration, but the revolutionary spirit of 1896 and its noble dream filled with a fierce yearning for change."

In a related development, the INQUIRER obtained a document detailing plans for the secession of Mindanao. "Oplan [Operation Plan] Southern Star," reportedly authored by Colonel Noble and subtitled "Military Plan In Support Of The General Plan For the Secession/ Separation of Mindanao," is a five-phase plan which includes the neutralization (the arrest or the killing) of the "active opposition."

It said Oplan Southern Star's aim was to "mobilize all available military forces and utilize them to support and move behind the movement for an independent Mindanao." It specified the tasks of Army and military units, para-military units and "other friendly forces," including several factions of Moro separatists.

However, Brig. Gen. Miguel Sol, the new chief of the Army's 4th Infantry Division, doubted the capability of Noble to mobilize the soldiers to rise up against the government. "My battalion commanders will never follow him," Sol told the INQUIRER.

In Iligan City, a military field officer who declined to be identified, said that although the RAM-Boys pledged to "fight to the last drop of blood," they were not yet prepared to launch an offensive. He also debunked reports of a link-up between Noble and local political warlord Ali Dimaporo, the former Lanao del Sur congressman who ran and lost in the election for governor of the Muslim Mindanao autonomous government.

1987 Coup Leader Sentenced to Six Years

HK0204045790 Baguio City Mountain Province
Broadcasting Company in English 0400 1 Apr 90

[Text] A former Constabulary officer who pleaded (?guilty) for participation in the 1987 coup attempt was

sentenced yesterday by military court to six years and one day of hard labor. The Armed Forces court, presided by Navy Commodore Carlito Cunanan, read the decision against former Lieutenant Colonel Eduardo Matillano after he was found guilty of illegal possession of firearms and ammunitions.

Matillano, a former classmate of cashiered Army Lieutenant Colonel Gregorio Honasan, was formerly provincial PC-INP [Philippine Constabulary-Integrated National Police] commander of Nueva Ecija when he supported the military uprising of August 27, 1987. Matillano went immediately into hiding after the unsuccessful 1987 coup attempt. However, he was captured last December 1989 while meeting actress [name indistinct] inside a Quezon City pubhouse by military intelligence agents.

Communist Rebel's Mass Grave Found in Sorsogon

HK0204043990 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE
in English 2 Apr 90 p 3

[Excerpt] The military yesterday announced the discovery of what could be described as another killing fields of the New Peoples Army (NPA) in Sorsogon.

In a report to newly installed Constabulary chief Brig. Gen. Cesar T. Nazareno, Col. Norberto Lina, PC INP [Philippine Constabulary-Integrated National Police] Region 5 deputy commander, said the mass grave was located in a remote area in barangay Mabini, Donsol, Sorsogon. Lina said the military was able to discover some 50 skeletal remains through the help of an NPA rebel returnee identified as Jose Patriaca, alias Kumander [Commander] Jango.

The report said eight of the remains were sent to Donsol for burial by their respective relatives.

He said the remains had been identified as those of Romeo Romero, Sotero Logrida, Alfredo Arevalo, Ben Eyes, Francisco Mosa, Wilson Malahinto, a son of one Formie Asterio Guiriba, and a brother of one Efren Asaytono.

The remains were discovered by Lina, together with elements of the Constabulary regional group 5 of the defense civil relations and representatives of local media. [passage omitted]

Death Toll Reaches 121 in Agusan Fighting

HK0304040990 Manila MANILA BULLETIN
in English 3 Apr 90 p 8

[By M. Crismundo]

[Text] Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur—A running gun battle between government forces and New Peoples' Army guerrillas was still raging yesterday in the mountains bordering Surigao del Sur and Agusan del Sur. The battle entered its ninth day yesterday with the death toll

rising to an estimated 120 communist rebels and one government trooper. At least 25 Army soldiers were also wounded.

Pedro Tampoy, alias "Ka [Comrade] Peter" who surrendered yesterday to Lt. Col. Bartolome V. Baluyot, Agusan del Sur PC-INP [Philippine Constabulary-Integrated National Police] provincial commander, said that 50 of his companions were killed when they were directly hit the other day by Tora-tora bombs and rocket fire.

Tampoy was intercepted by a PC-INP blocking force in San Francisco town, this province. He surrendered two fragmentation grenades and bullets to Colonel Baluyot.

During an interrogation, he confessed that he belongs to a 125-men band of rebels led by Fr. Francisco Navarro, alias "Ka Meigo." He said they were armed with 70 M-6 rifles, 40 M-14 rifles, two M-60 machineguns, and two 30 caliber light machineguns, two M-203, 100 fragmentation grenades, 100 rifle grenades, and communication radio sets.

He said the group is now in disarray with the members suffering hunger and lack of medicines for several of their companions who were wounded in a series of bombing runs and the ensuing running gun battle with Army soldiers. "We are outgunned and outnumbered and the government forces are using war planes and helicopters gunships," he said. "Bombing and rockets attacks and artillery fire inflicted big casualties," he added.

Metropolitan Force To Launch Summer Offensive

HK0304025190 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in Tagalog 0100 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] Colonel Romeo Maganto announced that the Metropolitan Field Force will launch the summer offensive against the New People's Army Sparrows. He said that the Sparrows are specialists in terrorist attacks. He agreed with the suggestion of Capital Regional Command Chief General Marino Filart to use the Metropolitan Field Force in an antidissident drive in Metro Manila.

Foreign Debt Repayment To Reach \$3.8 Billion

HK0204044790 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 2 Apr 90 p 25

[By Ernesto Tolentino]

[Text] Some \$3.8 billion will be forked out for external debt repayments this year. The huge foreign exchange outflow will consign the country to a "negative resource transfer" of more than \$1 billion since projected "inflows" in foreign loans and grants are estimated to reach no more than \$2 billion.

This year's total external debt repayments will be \$678 million or more than 22 percent of its \$3.12-billion debt

service burden in 1989. The previous year, the debt service burden reached \$3.1 billion.

Official records show that this year's estimated foreign debt repayments will be equivalent to 28 percent of total foreign receipts from the export of goods and services. In 1989, the debt service ratio to export receipts stood at only 25.1 percent.

Some \$2.204 billion in loan interest will be serviced by the Philippines this year, accounting for the bulk of debt payments. The amount of loan principal to be paid is placed only at roughly \$1.6 billion. Last year, loan interest servicing also took the bulk or \$2.217 billion of the estimated \$3.12 billion debt service burden.

The heavy debt service burden and the huge annual negative resource transfer have been traced as one of the major culprits to the continuing slower-than-projected recovery of the Philippine economy, prompting certain quarters in the legislature to proposed measures that would among others, put a cap on external debt service.

Foreign exchange resources spent on debt repayments have been averaging more than \$3 billion a year. This situation has however been exacerbated by the huge net resource transfer on account of the country's inability to tap foreign loans and grants in amounts approximating its debt service burden and failure to fully utilize the resources that it has managed to raise.

According to records, for the period 1986-1988, alone, the country's negative resource transfer has already accumulated to more than \$3.1 billion.

Price Control Measures Extended Until April

HK3003050190 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0400 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] Only a few remaining products are still subject to price control measures until 30 April. Malacanang yesterday released Memorandum Orders 13 and 14, providing for the extension of the price control measures until April. However, deleted from the list are sugar, milk, pork, and flour. Still on the list are rice, petroleum, liquified petroleum gas, and cement.

The price control measures have been extended three times since their imposition by the president last December.

45 Percent Rise in Investments Reported

HK0204044390 Manila BUSINESS STAR in English 2 Apr 90 p 10

[By Ronald M. Manila]

[Text] Local businessmen increased their investment in February, in an apparent gesture of confidence in the country's fragile economy, which has been wracked by fears of coup attempts and other politically destabilizing factors.

Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) show investments of new and existing local businesses through their capital increases, jumped 45.1% higher from P[pesos]1.1 billion in January to P1.5 billion in February. Foreign investments in February however dropped by 42% from P550.9 million to P319.6 million as confidence waned with the political crisis that gripped the country after the bloodiest coup try in December.

SEC however said the higher number of firms registered shows business activities had already normalized, two months after the coup, as February registrations became the highest on record. Some 1,637 new firms registered in February compared to January's 1,554.

Foreign investors perceived the situation in February to be volatile following the arrest of Senator Juan Ponce Enrile and the breakaway of Cagayan Governor Rodolfo Aguinaldo, SEC said.

SEC said the Gotesco Holdings, Inc., with a start-up capital of P62.5 million was the top registrant in February. Metro Drug, Inc., with P485.6 million equity increase by way of stock dividend, property and offset of liabilities, took the lead among the on-going businesses.

Thailand

Papers on New Army Chief Suchinda Khaprayun

Chief To Avoid Politics

BK3103015490 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
31 Mar 90 p 1

[Excerpt] Newly-appointed Army chief Suchinda Khaprayun said yesterday he will steer the Army away from politics and pledged full fairness in handling the reshuffle of his subordinates. After the official announcement of a Royal command appointing him as commander-in-chief, General Suchinda when pressed by reporters, however, declined to commit himself into saying there would be no coup d'etat while he is in office. "In military affairs, we cannot give a 100 per cent forecast because there're usually varying factors in everything. "It will be impossible for me to give a firm prediction that there will not be (a coup d'etat) because everything can always be changed. "But all soldiers in the Army can give an assurance the Army will always stand by the majority of the people. It's our duty to stay with the people and help them," he said.

Gen Suchinda, who is chairman of the influential Chulachomklao Military academy Class 5, pledged he would lay emphasis on Army development. "My capability and my intelligence are incomparable to the (former) Army commander-in-chief (Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut) who is knowledgeable in several things. "I will always be ready to talk about any Army affair, but certainly will not be able to comment on other things outside my scope of capability," Gen Suchinda said. He said his succession as new Army chief would not pose any problem for unity

with the Army. "Soldiers have regulations and discipline. Whoever is appointed commander-in-chief is always accepted by his subordinates. Soldiers never defy superiors' orders. We have no problem of unity."

Gen Suchinda said he would follow his predecessors in developing the Army into a prestigious institution. "If we uphold our dignity, nobody will be able to interfere with us." Gen Suchinda said he had said even before he was made Army chief that the Army would not interfere with politics and this would continue to be his policy. However, the Army would be ready to take up any assignment that might be given to it by the Prime Minister or the Defence Minister if they needed the Army's help in areas other government agencies could not handle. Gen Suchinda admitted politics and the military are inseparable. "We realise that we have to stay under political control because those who are in politics draw up policies. "We want to maintain this relation as such, not one plagued by interference," he said. On the question of promotion of his subordinates, Gen Suchinda said the military reshuffle would be carried out fairly. Promotion would not be done with any particular classes or groups being given special favour. [passage omitted]

Chief on Reshuffle

BK0204022190 Bangkok THE NATION in English
2 Apr 90 p 1

[By Kokhet Chantaloetlak]

[Excerpts] Gen [General] Suchinda Khaprayun, the army's new commander-in-chief, said yesterday he would look over the army's mid-year reshuffle list next week and expected it to be made final by late April. Details of the reshuffle will be announced within the next three weeks, Suchinda told reporters while attending an anniversary ceremony for the army's Operations Department. The army conducts two yearly reshuffles of officers, one at mid-year and a larger one in October. The new army chief declined to respond to reporters' questions concerning speculation that "class" prejudice would play a part in the reshuffle, only saying "which class?" [passage omitted]

In his first official act as army chief, Gen Suchinda instructed the Operations Department to emphasize its military training programme for the army's personnel. He said that as an actual war is becoming more unlikely, soldiers do not have an opportunity to gain experience on the field, making improved training programmes crucial to the army's readiness. "Former training practices involving (large-scale) defensive and offensive actions should be scrapped as they were costly and designed mainly for showing-off," he said in an address to over 100 officers who attended the anniversary ceremony. The Operations Department is widely considered "the brains" of the army. In commenting on the upcoming reshuffle, Suchinda said the department's top personnel had been frozen for two years because Chawalit wanted them to continue unimpeded in their work

in his programme to modernize the army. "Some of you at the top deserve to be promoted to full general's rank. I plan to consider it in the near future," Suchinda told the officers.

Editorial Views Tasks

BK0204014990 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
2 Apr 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Adjusting to New Realities"]

[Text] Congratulations are in order for Gen [General] Suchinda Khraprayun. Despite some anxiety late last week over the delay in the official announcement of the new army boss and last-minute speculation over who would get the job, Gen Suchinda was finally appointed the new Army Commander-in-Chief. This is traditionally a powerful position that can directly or indirectly influence the shape of Thai politics.

Gen Suchinda, nominal head of the influential Class 5 Graduates of the Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy, has taken over the most powerful branch of the armed services at a time when both domestic and external events have taken an unprecedented turn for the better. Internally, the muscular Thai economy has surged ahead and generated greater prosperity for members of an increasingly pluralistic society. Externally, the era of cold war has given way to warming global detente. Across this country's eastern border, the more than decade-long Cambodian conflict looks set to play out its final chapter before the long-awaited peaceful settlement is brought about. As the Asian socialist powers increasingly look inward to concentrate on their domestic economic reforms, there is a glimmer of real hope that the proxy war in Cambodia may be drawing to an end. The diminishing external security threat should bode well for Thailand's economic and social development. For much of the last few decades, security spending has taken a large chunk of national budgetary resources. Given the current reduction in both the internal and external security threat, the defence budget arguably can assume a lower profile. This is part of the evolving realities that armed-forces leaders like Gen Suchinda will have to accept.

As an integral part of the government, the military establishment should share the common public aspiration that the urgent task facing the country now is to effect a comprehensive economic-development package that not only alleviates the current infrastructure shortages but also ensures a more equitable distribution of wealth among less-privileged groups. There is equal importance and urgency to improve the social infrastructure through educational reform, health-care and environmental improvement. This is not to say that defence spending should be drastically cut. Prime Minister Chatchai Chunchawan has stated on a number of occasions that "a strong fence makes good neighbours." Whether it is valid or not, the Thai military perception of a potential long-term threat from Indochina cannot be

totally discounted. In this regard, former army commander Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut's programme to enhance the army's capability while at the same time trimming its fat is logical and should continue.

For the time being though, the new army chief will have to concentrate on bolstering unity within his establishment. The recent distribution of leaflets attacking Gen Suchinda and his Class 5 colleagues underscored factionalism and distrust. It is no secret that some high-ranking army officers, especially those who are more senior in terms of graduation from Chulachomklao, view the collective rise to the top army hierarchy of the Class 5 officers with concern. It is therefore Gen Suchinda's duty to eradicate this distrust and foster unity. One of the ways he can achieve this is to ensure fairness in the upcoming promotions. Following last week's changes, key positions that are due for new appointments include those of deputy army commander and army chief-of-staff. Hence it is the new army chief's responsibility to see that those who are promoted are not necessarily his own classmates, but officers who have proper seniority and personal capability.

Although Gen Suchinda's promise to steer the army clear of politics was a welcome statement, it was disappointing that he stopped short of making the no-coup pledge of his predecessor. Despite shortcomings in the current political system, it is undesirable and unthinkable that Thailand should revert to the old days of military dictatorship. The country's democratisation process has come a long way and must be allowed to continue to mature. It is therefore reasonable to expect the military to play along with the new political realities.

Reshuffle of Advisors Seen as Surprise Move

BK3103024690 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
31 Mar 90 pp 1,3

[Text] Prime Minister Chatchai Chunchawan issued a surprise order yesterday removing General Panya Sing-sakda as his secretary-general and appointing a cousin, former Fourth Army Region commander Gen Wanchai Chitchamnong, as successor from April 4. Gen Chatchai told reporters Gen Panya will be promoted to chairman of his 30-member advisory board. Gen Panya's successor, Gen Wanchai, is now a Prime Minister's adviser. "This promotion is considered very significant, because the chairman is an important position and the person in this position must possess both political and academic knowledge," Gen Chatchai said. He said Gen Panya would advise him on parliamentary affairs, the same job once under the jurisdiction of Mr Wan Chansu, who is President of Parliament.

Gen Panya yesterday said he had not been aware of the removal order, but said he was not upset. "Being a politician, you must make yourself very light and always be ready to be on the move," Gen Panya said. He said he had vowed, when deciding to take up a political appointment in the Government, to serve Gen Chatchai and he would be ready to take on any assignment given to him

by the Prime Minister. "Who knows? Next time I may be made a Cabinet minister," Gen Panya said. He said he had already applied to join Gen Chatchai's Chat Thai Party and would contest an election if the party supported him.

It has been widely speculated that Gen Panya might be removed as the Prime Minister's secretary-general because of his conflict with the Prime Minister's policy advisers at Ban Phitsanulok. But Gen Panya denied this when asked by reporters if the transfer order could have stemmed from the problem. "I never had any conflict with anybody, but if anyone has a conflict with me, then you'll have to ask them yourself," he said. Gen Panya said he had obtained valuable political experience in his job as the Prime Minister's secretary-general and this would help him become a good politician in future. Asked by reporters whether or not the position of Prime Minister's advisory chairman is a rubber-stamp job with no active role, Gen Panya said the role of the advisory board depended on the persons appointed to it. "If the persons who take up membership are capable and efficient, the board's role can be significant," Gen Panya said.

Khukrit Admits Bribing MP's During Premiership

*BK0204051990 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
2 Apr 90 p 3*

[Text] Vote-buying in Thailand will get worse, M.R. Khukrit Pramot said yesterday, admitting that he had paid 3.5 million baht in bribes to MPs [members of Parliament] when he was prime minister in 1975. "Press reports about white envelopes (containing money) circulating in Parliament are true. I paid them (MPs) while I was prime minister. The budget bill was about to come up in Parliament and I asked them how much they wanted. They said three million, five hundred thousand baht," M.R. Khukrit said.

The former premier—giving a speech entitled, "The Elected Government Through the Eyes of Khukrit", organised by the Parliament Press Corps at the Royal River Hotel—became the first Thai leader yesterday to admit to bribing members of the House, confirming widespread press reports. M.R. Khukrit said that vote-buying by MP candidates in the last general elections had reached a "frightening" level, will get worse in the next election and is undermining the democratic system. "The government after that of Prime Minister Chatchai Chunchawan will have to buy their way into power, starting with MPs buying votes. I don't know how much the prime minister would have to pay. If you are a minister you have to pay MPs every time there is a vote. A minister may be able to recoup his losses in office," M.R. Khukrit said. He said he did not pay the 3.5 million baht to MPs out of the Prime Minister's secret fund, "because the deputy prime minister had used it all", and he could not use the military secret fund, "because the military said they had used it all." "I had to borrow money, and it took me four years after leaving

office to pay it back," he said. Most ministers today also pay MPs when they face a no-confidence debate, he added.

Answering questions afterward, he said efforts to amend the constitution should focus on requiring only the Prime Minister to be an elected MP, not other ministers. Otherwise, a prime minister may have trouble finding qualified people to fill portfolios, he said. Asked if Gen [General] Chawalit Yongchaiyut's entry into the Chatchai Government had improved stability, he said the Government is already stable and the former army commander's presence did not seem to add to it. "Anyone can be defense minister, and Phong Sarasin and Thianchai Sirisampan are already deputy prime ministers," M.R. Khukrit said. "If he wanted Gen Chawalit for stability, it would have been better to court him while he was army commander. Then he could have put down coups. But now he has left the army and has no more power—he can't control a single company of soldiers," he said.

On new Army Commander Gen Suchinda Kraprayun's statement that no one can say there will never be another coup, M.R. Khukrit said the stability of the government depends on the Premier's merits and charisma. Asked if Gen Suchinda made the comment because he was unsure of unity in the Army, he said the general could not take things for granted. Gen Chawalit cannot lessen political pressure from Parliament, he said, because he has no influence to stop an opposition censure motion. "Government stability depends on Gen Chatchai. This Prime Minister faces everything down himself. When he wants to appoint a new minister he does it through personal contacts without anyone else's help. He is a capable person. I respect him for this. He has got a lot of tricks," he said. He said Gen Chawalit is likely to run for election in a large province if he decides to run at all. Relations between the Government and military are good and the new Army chief is a democratic man who is not given to thoughtless actions, he said, adding that the Government should be stable. However, the problem with this Government is that anyone can ask for and get anything from it. "Whenever a mob challenges it, the Government gives in. It should not," he said.

Under the present administration, exports have risen to 100,000 million baht a year. It may survive its four-year term, though there are a lot of things that could change this, he said. Asked how Gen Chawalit could become prime minister, he said he had told the general that first he may have to become an MP to win support in Parliament. "If he becomes Prime Minister this way no one can fault him, but if he just walks into the post then I would disagree.

"I have nothing against him being prime minister. He is capable and has enough charisma, but I don't want him to enter through the wrong door. I want him to enter honestly so that people will respect him," M.R. Khukrit said.

Chatchai Calls for Expanded Trade With Cambodia

BK0204090290 Hong Kong AFP in English 0837 GMT
2 Apr 90

[By Thewaphinan Thewakun]

[Excerpts] Bangkok, April 2 (AFP)—Thai Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan, vowing to continue peace efforts in Cambodia, has reaffirmed his wish to open up trade with the war-torn Southeast Asian nation, government officials said Monday [2 April]. He told 15,000 officials and businessmen at a function near the Cambodian border Sunday that he wanted to see trade routes opened between the two countries "very soon," the officials said. "I assure you that we will definitely open up trade with Cambodia, a country abounding in natural and mineral resources, such as precious stones, timber and mineral ores, because I think the war in Cambodia will soon end," Mr. Chatchai said. Despite recent setbacks in regional efforts to end the 11-year Cambodian conflict, Mr. Chatchai said he would continue his "contacts with all four warring Cambodian factions," the officials said. [passage omitted]

Mr. Chatchai, speaking at a birthday party for Deputy Interior Minister Sano Thianthong in Prachin Buri Province, some 130 kilometers (80 miles) east of here, said Prachin Buri would rapidly become one of Thailand's "most important economic provinces," as "a border trading post" with Cambodia, the officials said. [passage omitted] Mr. Chatchai took over as premier 18 months ago with a call to turn the battlefields of Indochina into marketplaces for Thai goods within the framework of a rapprochement with Hanoi and Phnom Penh. He defended Sunday his meetings over the past year with his Phnom Penh counterpart Hun Sen.

Western-ally Thailand, which has no relations with Phnom Penh, has long spearheaded non-communist Southeast Asia's opposition to Vietnam's intervention in Cambodia. "In the past, we have restricted our contacts only to the three Cambodian resistance factions, but that outdated policy led to a deadlock in peace talks aimed at national reconciliation between the resistance and the fourth faction in Phnom Penh," Mr. Chatchai said. "Therefore it is my administration's policy to extend contacts with the Phnom Penh government, as well as maintaining ties with the resistance," he said. Mr. Chatchai said his government also wants to help boost the income levels of Thai villagers living along the border by allowing them to sell Thai food and manufactured goods in Cambodia.

Article Discusses GATT Meeting, U.S. Trade

BK3103102090 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in English
1500 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Article: "Thailand and Diplomatic Efforts on International Trade"]

[Text] The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade will be convened soon, but the GATT's almost one hundred

signatory members are divided on several unresolved issues. The farm exporting countries, like New Zealand, and the other hard-line nations led by Brazil and India, have said that if there is no development on farm issues during GATT's upcoming meeting, there will be no agreement which [as heard] on remaining issues, including the controversial intellectual property rights, which includes trade marks, patents, and copyright.

Developing countries have repeatedly reiterated their firm stand to see global farm trade deliberalized, while industrialized countries, including the United States, want to see increasing protection for the intellectual rights. For the sake of the nation, Thailand has not yet moved to support any side. But most developing countries are urging Thailand to support the Cairns Group's stand on farm trade. The Cairns Group represents the grouping of countries whose majority of exports are farm products. The group is comprised of 14 countries: Australia, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Columbia, Fiji, Hungary, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Uruguay, and Thailand. Thailand, as a major exporter of rice and several other agricultural products, has been very active for the formation of the Cairns.

During the recent New Zealand visit, Thailand's Deputy Commerce Minister Chuchip Hansawat was reportedly (?urged) by New Zealand Minister of International Trade Mike Moore to stand on farm trade. The stand calls for GATT members to reduce farm subsidies gradually to zero. According to ASEAN, ASEAN also had a similar stand to that of the Cairns Group. However, Thailand is still at the crossroad whether it should make a stand on some countries' side. If Thailand makes a decision on the side of the farm group, it will definitely have mounting problems with Washington over bilateral trade. There was a report that recently the United States Embassy in Bangkok approached the Thai side for talks in a month on this lingering problem at bilateral level. Accordingly, the United States wants to assess developments and progress on the Thai side, and to decide whether or not the country should be removed from the watch list or upgrade to the list of those engaging in unfair trade retaliatory measures. Washington has set May as the deadline to decide on the issue.

The United States is the second significant market of Thai exporting products. In 1988, Thai products exported to the United States was accounted as 20 percent of the total 80,000 million baht. Therefore, the measures applied by the United States will pervasively affect the status of Thai exporting products. At present, Thailand and the United States have (?mounted) differences in several trading aspects. The popular issues which are still on negotiating tables are the cigarette dispute and the new Farm Act Bill; especially the Farm Act Bill, which came out with a market loan program [and] has caused tremendous adverse consequences to Thai rice farmers. Because of several trade differences and Thai trade surplus towards the United States, the country has put Thailand on the priority watch list in accordance with the eight other [as heard] countries:

Brazil, China, India, South Korea, Mexico, Saudi Arabia and Taiwan. However, Thailand has so far responded to the United States' measures by advancing diplomatic efforts to help ease the differences between [Thailand and] this most important trading partner.

Accordingly, Thai Commerce Minister Subin Pinkhayan was scheduled to leave for Mexico to hold three days of informal talks with the trade ministers from GATT member countries and to discuss various international trade issues, including farm subsidies. In a related development, the Business Economics Department's deputy director general, Karun Kittisathaphon, would lead a Thai delegation to Geneva early next month to attend the formation of the dispute panel to consider the Thai-U.S. cigarette issue.

In regard of the progress of the issue, a congressional hearing on the U.S. cigarette policy will be held late next month in Washington, D.C. to consider the drive by a group of United States lawmakers to halt the U.S. Administration's attempts to open the markets of developing countries. The hearing will be significant for Thailand because it will help (?determine whether) the senators or congress members join the fight against tobacco companies. Besides Thai delegates from the Commerce Ministry, Dr. Prakrit, chairman of the anti-smoking project, will represent Thailand at the hearing, which is expected to increase pressure on the Bush administration to pull back from its aggressive stand on the issue. Besides this, Thailand is working for the ways to compromise and, at the same time, protect the nation's interests in dealing with the United States and other trading partners in the (?GATT world).

Deputy Prime Minister To Visit Eastern Europe

*BK0204012990 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
2 Apr 90 p 2*

[Excerpt] Deputy Prime Minister Phong Sarasin and his 20-member delegation will visit the Soviet Union and three other countries during April 9-25 to explore the potential for a stronger Thai presence in Eastern Europe. The team comprising Mr Phong and representatives of the Thai Board of Trade, Federation of Thai Industries, and Thai Bankers Association, will look for new beach-heads for Thai products and investments in the Soviet Union, Hungary, Poland, and Czechoslovakia. The four countries are Thailand's top trade partners in the East bloc. "The objective of the visit is to familiarise the Thai private sector with prospective markets over there, with the government leader providing passage for them to meet with their respective leaders," a source said. East Germany was not included because Thailand is still waiting for the outcome of the German unification process in order to formulate its policy, the source said. However, the visit is expected to enable the team to gather information on the possible impact of the unification on Thailand.

With the Soviet Union ranking first in terms of bilateral trade volume, Thailand is aiming particularly at

expanding trade with Czechoslovakia, which ranks fourth among Thailand's trade partners in the nine-country bloc. Thailand has suffered a trade deficit with Czechoslovakia due to its imports of capital goods, pulp and machinery. At the same time, potentials exist for Thailand to export more goods, especially foodstuffs and consumer's products to Czechoslovakia, which is also interested in buying tin and other ores from Thailand. Although the two countries have maintained diplomatic relations, it was not until recently that they agreed to set up embassies in their capitals. [passage omitted]

Delegation to PRC Fails To Get Rice Deal

*BK0104045890 Bangkok THE NATION in English
31 Mar 90 p 13*

[Text] China has remained undecided about whether to buy Thai rice this year but is committed to purchasing 100,000 tonnes of Thai natural rubber. This message was given recently to a visiting Thai delegation, led by Deputy Commerce Minister Phinya Chuaiphot. The delegation failed to get a commitment from China to buy the rice which was one of the main objectives of the trip. Chinese officials said they were still waiting for a reliable forecast of their domestic output which is not expected until June. But China, which is expecting a higher crop yield this year, does not expect to buy as much Thai rice as last year's purchase which totalled 1.1 million tonnes excluding a sizeable volume imported through Hong Kong. China did, however, agree to increase its purchase of Thai natural rubber from 50,000-60,000 tonnes to 100,000 tonnes. The Thai delegation also expressed interest in importing Chinese cement. A Chinese delegation will visit Bangkok to hold talks with the Public Warehouse Organization shortly. Pinya has cancelled the planned visit to South Korea and Japan having succeeded in obtaining a larger import commitment for natural rubber from China.

Leaders Reportedly Decline Ceremony Invitation

*BK0104021690 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
1 Apr 90 p 8*

[From the "Inprint" column]

[Text] Both Thai and Burmese leaders reportedly turned down a request to attend a foundation stone laying ceremony on April 11 by some groups concerned with the construction of a bridge across the Moei River. The rejected parties have been trying very hard to get the project to go ahead, according to KHAO PISES weekly magazine. The magazine predicted that Prime Minister Chatchai Chunnawan may not want close ties with Burmese leader Gen Saw Maung for international political reasons while the Rangoon leader, who is busy with the country's first general election in many years, may want to avoid being accused by the Burmese public of "selling himself to Thailand."

The Moei Bridge is part of the United Nations-initiated Asian Highways project that will help connect

Myawaddy in Burma with Tak province in Thailand. The 175-million-baht construction is to be financed by the Japanese Government. It will benefit bilateral trade, especially in logging, automobiles and electrical appliances, and will improve transportation between the two countries. KHAO PISES concluded that the two parties who want the completion of the bridge as soon as possible are the Japanese Embassy in Bangkok and Deputy Foreign Minister Prapat Limpaband.

Melbourne Views Support for Burmese Military

*BK0104090190 Melbourne Overseas Service in English
0803 GMT 1 Apr 90*

[From the "International Report" program]

[Text] For decades the government of Myanmar, formerly Burma, has been fighting ethnic rebel groups such as the Karens and Shans, and there is now growing evidence that the Thai military has begun supporting the Rangoon government's counterinsurgency campaign in return for logging concessions. Peter Mayer was recently in Thailand and filed this report on the link between trade and recent Burmese successes against the rebels.

[Begin recording] [Mayer] The role of Thai logging companies in Burma began with a mudslide in southern Thailand in November 1988. Deforestation was the cause of the mudslide, which flattened several villages and killed hundreds of people. The disaster prompted a call for a complete ban on further logging in Thailand's denuded forests. Before the ban was introduced, however, the acting supreme commander of the Thai military, General Chawalit, made a quick trip to Rangoon. He was the first foreign dignitary to visit since the Burmese leadership had gunned down 3,000 unarmed demonstrators three months earlier. But Gen. Chawalit returned from Rangoon with just what he wanted—20 logging concessions. Thailand had secured an alternative supply of timber; and bankrupt Burma, a new source of foreign exchange. Bertil Lintner, a specialist correspondent on Burma based in Bangkok, says since this new business relationship was established the Thai military has begun to support Burma's war against ethnic insurgents in two different ways:

[Lintner] First of all, they are sending rice, medicines, even ammunition up to the Burmese troops on the border; and secondly by allowing the Burmese Army to use Thai territory as a springboard from which they attack (?the various) camps from the rear.

[Mayer] Why has Thailand's policy changed? Why are they now supporting the Burmese military in their operations against various ethnic minorities?

[Lintner] Well, Thailand's interest has mainly been concentrated on border business all along. In the past it could buy timber, precious stones, and whatever they needed from the rebels or via the rebels when everything was supposedly illegal and connected to the black market in Burma. Now that has changed. So, they can buy

timber, precious stones, and all other commodities directly from the Burmese. So these rebels are no longer needed as far as the Thais are concerned.

[Mayer] Any benefiting (?here in) Thailand from this change in policy?

[Lintner] Well, mainly the logging companies. The logging companies in this country are controlled by those various military interests, ranging from the acting supreme commander, Gen. Chawalit Yongchaiyut, down to local commanders in the border areas. [end recording]

U.S. Senator Daniel Moynihan introduced legislation which would ban the import of Burmese teak and other hardwood. The ban would include timber which is processed in Thailand. Senator Moynihan was quoted as saying that the United States must do what it can to stop Burma receiving hard currency to spend on guns. In Bangkok, Thai Government spokesman Dr. Suwit Yotmani defends Thailand's trade links with Burma.

[Begin recording] [Suwit] One should try to look at this from the macro point of view. The macro point of view is that between one country and another, there should be this relationship, just as Australia has a relationship with Burma. So, Thailand has a relationship with Burma. Now, on a lesser scale, we are trying to say: Let us somehow try to build friendship between the people across the border; let us try to build trust among the people as well as among the government officials. The effort to try to promote trade is, in a way, first of all, to promote a better standard of living for all people. It is not to promote government-to-government goodwill just for the sake of goodwill, but it is for the sake of upgrading the level of living of the two peoples.

[Mayer] But in terms of promoting good relations with the Burmese people the policy seems likely to backfire, because what the Burmese people see happening is that Thailand is buying a lot of timber from Burma, gems, and fish. And the money that the Burmese Government gets enables it to buy weapons from Singapore to maintain its military rule.

[Suwit] What we would like to do most is to try to invest in Burma, try to go not only to trade but to invest in Burma so that the benefits will remain in Burma. Whoever takes it is Burma's problem. [sentence as heard] We cannot be the world police, you know, and taking that role and say, well, you are not humanitarian, you are not living up to the standards of what we have in Thailand, then we do not trade with you. We are small countries; we cannot act as a policeman of the world.

[Mayer] But the point is that Thailand's business involvement in Burma is propping up a regime that is extremely brutal. I mean, it is the fundamental prop to that regime at the moment.

[Suwit] Burma had declared it wants joint investments, it wants us to cooperate, and what we are doing actually

is to produce money to upgrade the level of living of our people—if not the Burmese people, at least our people—and we do not find that we are doing anything that is illegal or that is contrary to international law.

[Mayer] It might be immoral then.

[Suwit] [Laughs] This is for, I think, others to judge. You know, if the government wants to be very moral in exercising its power, it must do it inside the country. But if it continues further from the border, and says, okay, you know you have got to be moral like me, then I do not think that we have the right to do that. We are interfering in the internal affairs of another country.

[Mayer] But the other aspect of this is that many of the logging contracts awarded in the border areas are allegedly benefiting a number of senior Thai politicians and senior military men.

[Suwit] I don't know, I don't know. I am not in the logging business. [laughs] I don't know who is involved. But I have heard such accusations, although I have not seen any evidence of it; so, I really cannot comment on that. [end recording]

Tourism Increase in 1989 Lower Than Expected

*BK0304020990 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
3 Apr 90 p 17*

[Text] Thailand achieved about 13 per cent growth in tourist arrivals last year, according to official statistics. This represented a total of about 4.8 million visitors who generated foreign exchange of about 85,000-88,000 million baht for the country. However, the achievement was about 200,000 people lower than what the Tourism Authority of Thailand [TAT] had expected. This was mainly due to the rapid drop in Malaysian tourist arrivals caused by reports of AIDS spreading in the South of Thailand.

According to the TAT's latest information, the total of foreign tourists in Thailand last year was 4,805,508. Average spending by tourists was 2,530 baht per day during their average length of stay of 7.3 days. Income from tourism would be about 85,000-88,000 million baht. Tourist arrivals in Thailand in the first half of last year showed a growth of 16 per cent, dropping from the 20 per cent achieved in the first quarter and falling further to only 13 per cent at the end of 1989. The TAT had earlier set a target of 4.23 million visitors for 1989, based on the tourism master plan during the Sixth National Development Plan to get 7 per cent growth each year. But it adjusted the figure to five million people at the end of 1989 due to the strong potential of the country in the world tourism market.

However, with the moves of the Malaysian Ministry of Health in warning Malaysian tourists about AIDS in the southern provinces of Thailand, the number of Malaysian tourists dropped by 100,000 million [as published] people at the end of September and kept declining in the last quarter

of the year. Meanwhile, tourists from Saudi Arabia have kept dropping in the past few years due mainly to the economic situation in the country. TAT Governor Thammanun Prachuapmo earlier said hoteliers should be partly responsible if Thailand did not achieve five million visitors because of the widespread concern over the rising hotel room rates in the past two years. The drop is not expected to be a big worry for the authority as the achievement still showed a growth as high as 13 per cent against the 1988 figure (4.23 million visitors), or almost double the 7 per cent in its master plan.

Vietnam

Article Views 'Downfall' of Tran Xuan Bach

*BK3103011490 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
31 Mar 90 p 4*

[Article by Jacques Bekaert: "The Downfall of Tran Xuan Bach"]

[Text] Less than one year ago, Mr Tran Xuan Bach was still considered one of the leading contenders for the post of secretary-general of the Vietnamese Communist Party. According to an official communique in Hanoi, he has just been fired from the politburo for "seriously violating the party's organisational principle and discipline."

For a Communist leader, nothing could be more important than to be a member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee. Once perceived as a conservative, then as a compromise candidate, somewhere between the reformists and those who wanted the party to keep total control over Vietnam's political life, Mr Tran Xuan Bach became increasingly vocal in his appeal for radical changes. He saw science and technology as the crucial factors of the 21st Century and felt increasingly uncomfortable with Vietnam's slow way to accept and implement changes. Vietnam, he said often, was ill prepared for the future. He had also become one of the most vocal advocates of a pluralistic political life, a view that probably caused his present problems. Early in February, several reports from a correspondent of the Japanese news agency KYODO mentioned the possibility of disciplinary measures against Tran Xuan Bach.

Tran Xuan Bach, noted a KYODO report of February 9, had accused the party of "passing itself off as the state" and insisted that it was necessary to cure the present "malaise" of the Vietnamese Communist Party and the Vietnamese political system. That cure, he believed, implies a crucial revision of the role of the Communist Party. Tran Xuan Bach was a member of the party's Secretariat. He was also in charge of the party's Foreign Affairs Department. He travelled at length to the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. He was directly exposed to the political transformations in the Soviet Union (where he had friends among the reformists), and to the radical changes that have put an end to communist supremacy in most Eastern European countries.

In mid-February, NHAN DAN, the party's official organ, indicated that there had been strong criticisms within the party against Tran Xuan Bach and other reform-minded party members. Those criticisms, sources in Vietnam said, were particularly strong during recent politburo sessions in Ho Chi Minh City and again during the 8th plenum of the party in Hanoi. Another KYODO dispatch on February 16 mentioned that a spokesman from the Foreign Ministry in Hanoi for the first time suggested that Vietnam had no intention "of amending the Constitution which gives exclusive power to the Communist Party." KYODO described Tran Xuan Bach as "a reformist calling for a multi-party system."

Tran Xuan Bach, who enjoys growing popularity among young intellectuals and party members, probably expressed too soon ideas that are slowly taking root in Vietnam. The fact that he was a prominent politburo member only added to the intolerable character of his point of view. For the time being, the party has made it clear that it will not tolerate advocacy of pluralism. Political pluralism is still considered a dirty word by most party leaders. This is based partly on the conviction that the party, and the party alone, has earned the right to lead Vietnam. "The party was alone in its fight against colonialism," a leading party member told us a few weeks ago. The party leadership, while recognizing the need to bring more democracy to the country's political life, is also afraid that pluralism will lead to chaos. Vietnamese leaders are watching closely events in Eastern Europe and China. The Vietnamese Communist Party would like to avoid both situations: a total elimination of the Communist Party, or a repression that would divide the country.

In an editorial marking the coming of the 8th plenum of the party, NHAN DAN explained that "the ties between the party and the people have become the blood and flesh ties, the source strength and an invaluable tradition of our party." If that strength and tradition are developed, added NHAN DAN "the party and revolution are invincible." Tran Xuan Bach and a few others, in the eyes of more conservative members of the Central Committee, have challenged that tradition, those ties. The party accepts changes; in fact serious changes have already taken place in the past few years. But more than ever the party, by firing Mr Tran Xuan Bach, has clearly indicated that the collective communist leadership will determine the pace and scope of change, not impatient individuals. "Exemplary party members can spontaneously, and vigorously, motivate the people to follow in their footsteps," said the Army daily QUAN DOI NHAN DAN (People's Army) recently. The party "leads the revolution and the masses to bring into full play the power, potential, intellect, and creativity of the people to help them broaden democracy and exercise their rights to mastery so as to fulfill the nation's revolutionary cause," concluded QUAN DOI NHAN DAN.

Tran Xuan Bach's sin was to believe that there was and should be political life outside of the party. This is still a

capital sin in Vietnam today. But never say never in politics. Mr Tran Xuan Bach joined the politburo in 1986. He may return to it in the future. After all, the present secretary-general of the Vietnamese Communist Party, Mr Nguyen Van Linh, himself was once eliminated from the politburo for being prematurely correct.

International Ho Chi Minh Symposium Closes

Vo Chi Cong Speaks

BK0104131290 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1100 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] On 30 March, Comrade Vo Chi Cong, chairman of the Council of State, received foreign guests attending the international scientific symposium entitled "President Ho Chi Minh—Vietnamese Hero of National Liberation, Great Man of Culture." At the meeting, Comrade Vo Chi Cong delivered a speech warmly welcoming and expressing thanks to foreign guests for attending the symposium. He said:

For the Vietnamese people, Uncle Ho's great cause lives forever in their memory. The Vietnamese people will always follow President Ho Chi Minh's banner of gradually leading the country from poverty and backwardness to a prosperous and civilized nation inheriting the Vietnamese ancestors' long-standing tradition of humanitarianism and civilization. At present, while vigorously implementing the renovation cause, we have realized more clearly Uncle Ho's brilliant beacon showing his ample intellect and creativity. His cause and testaments have guided and encouraged us in overcoming difficulties, relying on the people, promoting the people's labor potentials and creativities, and ensuring freedom, democracy, and a happy life for the people. While making efforts to develop production and further enhance the people's material life, we will spend more energy in gradually perfecting our education, culture, arts, and sciences to help the people expand their intellectual standard and enhance their education background to catch up with the era's trend of development.

President Ho Chi Minh's ideal in struggling for a world of peace in which all nations live in equality, friendship, and mutual respect is being implemented by the Vietnamese people, thereby contributing to the advance of mankind in the next decade. Culture is a chain linking peoples and nations together. The cultural quintessences of each nation are common properties of mankind. Likewise, mankind's cultural crests are precious things for all. Mutual understanding, study, and respect for one another have been profoundly achieved through culture in which man's brilliant manifestations of feelings and creativities are integrated.

I am convinced that the presence of distinguished guests and friends from distant countries at this symposium on the occasion of President Ho Chi Minh's birth centenary—great man of culture—is an event of prime significance not only to the Vietnamese people but also to peoples of different nations. Your sentiments toward Ho

Chi Minh manifested your respect for a great man of culture as well as your understanding to and high appraisal of the Vietnamese culture, people, and their land. Your laborious and scientific research on President Ho Chi Minh's cause will strongly encourage the Vietnamese people to continue studying and implementing his teachings. Once again, I sincerely thank distinguished guests and friends for attending the symposium. I wish you all success in your very short visit to Vietnam.

Vo Nguyen Giap Speaks

*BK3103125490 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1100 GMT 30 Mar 90*

[Station correspondent's report on the 30 March closing session of the international symposium on Ho Chi Minh in Hanoi—with portions recorded]

[Summary] After two days of work, the international symposium on President Ho Chi Minh closed this afternoon. The 30 statements presented in the past two days not only are useful scientific documents, but they also reflect the good sentiments of distinguished guests from all continents for President Ho Chi Minh. This afternoon, the last seven statements presented at the symposium—by delegates from Laos, the Soviet Union, the United States, Vietnamese in France, Japan, the FRG, and Vietnam—scientifically analyzed the pure revolutionary life of President Ho Chi Minh, a national hero, a great man of culture, and at the same time a combatant who relentlessly struggled all his life for peace and friendship among nations. Following a statement by an American historian, General Vo Nguyen Giap, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, delivered a closing speech:

[Begin Giap recording] "Dear distinguished guests, dear comrades and friends: In the past two days, 29 and 30 March, after listening to statements and views exchanged during the conference, I would like to suggest a few points to be unanimously agreed upon. First of all, we can say that our symposium has been a fine success. [applause] Although I have participated in several international seminars, I found an atmosphere of very special unanimity in this symposium. I would like to add only a few words. It can be said that this symposium has reflected Uncle Ho's boundless patriotism and love for the people. Friends from all five continents have realized that such patriotism and love for the people manifest their own aspirations. This is a point to be unanimously agreed upon, because everyone wishes his nation to be independent, free, unified, and treated equally.

"In this symposium, everyone unanimously agreed that Uncle Ho's love for the people and mankind had never changed. He himself said so in his own words. We very much thank our friends from all five continents for their response to such love for the people and mankind by showing their good sentiments toward our Uncle Ho and our Vietnamese people. [applause] Through this symposium, we all have seen a prominent fact that Uncle Ho's hearty feelings for mankind were immense. His general

psychology first of all copes with all issues concerning mankind, particularly the feelings of old and young people of both sexes. As some international friends recently talked about Uncle Ho's feelings for women, I found out that Uncle Ho treasured women a great deal. Uncle Ho said that in a Vietnam without women, socialism would be only half built. Since we men are in great numbers here, with your consent I would like to tell you that our Vietnamese people respect women very much and also want women to be treated equally.

"During his lifetime, Uncle Ho always urged that man be cared for comprehensively. We thank you, friends, for supporting and sympathizing with this concept of Uncle Ho to make all of us at present and in the future aware of the need to struggle for freedom and happiness of mankind, no matter where—in Vietnam, the Soviet Union, or the United States, and all five continents. This is a concentrated manifestation of what is called Ho Chi Minh humanism.

"I would like to conclude this symposium by thanking UNESCO—represented today by a special envoy of the director general—for issuing a resolution to commemorate our President Ho Chi Minh's centenary at this symposium. This resolution will contribute to peace and friendship among nations and to the UNESCO objectives of education, science, and culture to help mankind progress in all domains. I would like to ask the envoy to convey our most sincere thanks to the UNESCO director general. Now, we wish that you, friends, bring back to your countries the friendship and gratitude of the Vietnamese people and that—depending on the conditions in each region—you will popularize President Ho Chi Minh's humanistic concept as much as possible for the sake of peace and happiness of mankind within the scope of the UNESCO resolution." [applause] [end recording]

Communique on Former Vice Premier's Burial

*BK0204131290 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1100 GMT 2 Apr 90*

[Text] On 2 April, the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee, the National Assembly, the Council of State, the SRV Council of Ministers, and the Vietnam Fatherland Front [VFF] Central Committee issued a communique on the burial service for Comrade Nguyen Lam as follows:

1. The CPV Central Committee, the National Assembly, the Council of State, the SRV Council of Ministers, and the VFF Central Committee have decided to form a committee to organize the burial service for Comrade Nguyen Lam made up of the following comrades:

The head of the committee is Nguyen Duc Tam, Political Bureau member and CPV Central Committee secretary. The committee members are Nguyen Khanh, CPV Central Committee member and Council of Ministers vice chairman cum general secretary; Pham The Duyet, CPV Central Committee secretary and Hanoi Municipal Party Committee secretary; Do Chinh, CPV Central

Committee member and Economics Department director; Pham Van Khai, CPV Central Committee member and State Planning Commission director; Ha Quang Du, Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union Central Committee first secretary; and Bui Xuan Son, Ha Nam Ninh Provincial Party Committee secretary.

2. The remains of Comrade Nguyen Lam will lay in state at the Ba Dinh Conference Hall, Hanoi.

3. The memorial service will be held at 0730 on 5 April 1990 and the burial service will occur at 1400 on the same date.

Relocations to New Economic Zones Reviewed

BK0304075190 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Thanh Thuy essay: "Look Back Over the Motivation of Labor for Building New Economic Zones Over the Years"]

[Summary] In compliance with the party and state policy of relocating the working people through the building of new economic zones, "during the period 1981-89, various localities succeeded in redeploying over 2 million people, including 980,000 laborers, by building various new economic zones, either inside or outside their provinces. The Red River Delta has the largest number of relocated people—300,000, including over 150,000 laborers. Localities that have welcomed large numbers of people are the Central Highlands, the eastern Nam Bo region, and the Mekong River Delta."

Over the past nine years in various provinces, people who went to new economic zones left behind nearly 100,000 hectares of cultivatable land and thousands of hectares of residential land, thus creating favorable conditions for the reorganization of production. In the recipient localities where new economic zones have been built, a total of "over 520,000 hectares of wasteland have been reclaimed, of which 400,000 hectares have been put into production, including nearly 200,000 hectares of grain." A number of new economic zones have stepped up the planting of various crops such as rush, jute, and coconut in order to produce more export-oriented commodities and solve the unemployment issue in the rural area. The relocation of people has helped shape up many specialized industrial and agricultural cropping areas. "Since 1981, the rubber sector has absorbed over 170,000 workers and has increased the area under rubber from 87,000 hectares in late 1980 to 200,000 hectares in 1987. In eight years, state-run coffee establishments have received 40,000 laborers and have increased the coffee area by 58,000 hectares."

Ha Nam Ninh, Thai Binh, Hai Hung, and Ha Son Binh Provinces are localities with large numbers of people being relocated. These provinces have strived to create favorable conditions for the people to promptly stabilize their lives in their new homeland. "Thanks to its annual sendoff of over 10,000 people to new economic zones, Thai Binh Province has been able to reclaim nearly 600 hectares of land from the sea and to create 5,000 new

jobs per year." The lives of new economic zone resettlers "are relatively stable." According to statistics obtained from 11 provinces, "27 percent of families which have resettled are much better off than before, 48 percent have a standard of living equal to or a little bit better than before, and 25 percent are worse off than before."

Although there has been some remarkable results, "basically, the task of motivating the people to build new economic zones has failed to meet the targets established" in terms of structural composition, labor quality, and the number of people relocated. "The results obtained do not rationalize the amount of capital invested—equivalent to 67,500 taels of gold—in building new economic zones during the period 1981-88." "We have only paid attention to building those state- and collectively-run economic units characterized by formalism, and the economic results are not high enough. Other economic elements have developed sluggishly. There have been no remarkable changes in the relocation of people in those small yet heavily-populated areas such as the Red River Delta and in various suburban areas." "For the most part, many economic zones have not been completely built. The time for them to take shape has been prolonged. The lives of the compatriots are still beset with numerous difficulties and deprivations, especially in the fields of healthcare, education, information, culture, traffic, and goods exchanges."

No attention has been given to protecting the ecological environment. "The need for self-sufficiency in food grain has resulted in the heavy destruction of forests in various new economic zones." Our country as a whole still has 13 million hectares of wasteland, including 4 million hectares capable of being used for agricultural production and 9 million hectares for afforestation. Apart from approximately one million youths reaching working age annually, "there have been hundreds of thousands of people in our country still unemployed." "Between now and the year 2000, the Population Motivation Department of the Ministry of Labor, War Invalids, and Social Welfare will strive to motivate 2.6 to three million people, including one to two million laborers, for relocation to meet requirements for agricultural, forestry, and fishery development" and "to put approximately 1.4 million hectares of wasteland to use."

'Marked Progress' Made in 1989 Family Planning

BK0204100790 Hanoi VNA in English 1536 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 1—Marked progress was made by Vietnam in the implementation of the population and family planning programme in 1989, according to data revealed by the central census steering committee at a press conference here yesterday on the results of the five-percent sample of the 1989 census. The committee said that in 1989, Vietnam's birth rate was reduced by 0.44 percentage point compared with the previous year.

Last year, several important legal documents were adopted by the National Assembly and the Council of Ministers to spur the family planning programme, including the law on healthcare. The national committee for population and family planning has been re-organized, and more capital invested in building 300 more technical service centres for mother and child healthcare and population and family planning activities in various villages and districts across the country. The Ministry of Education has introduced population education into the curricula of general schools and teachers training colleges in 33 provinces and cities while the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union has involved about 20 million of its members into the campaign.

The Ministry of Finance has trebled the budget for national population and family planning compared with 1988.

Family planning is listed as one of the six priority national programmes of the Ministry of Public Health. The radio and television and other mass media from the centre to the grassroots have increased their publicity campaigns for population activities.

However, the target set for 1989 has not been particularly in the rural areas. [sentence as received] Compared with the average [word indistinct] rate in the world, Vietnam's population growth rate [was] quite high, chiefly due to the high fertility rate, the crude birth rate standing at 3.13 percent and total fertility rate being 4 children per woman.

To cut the population growth rate by 0.04 percentage point and the birth rate by 0.4 percent this year, the government has invested more than 8 billion dong in increasing the technical services and another 15 billion dong for expanding population activities.

Agricultural Production Nationwide Reported

BK0104095290 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Summary] The cultivation of winter-spring rice has basically been completed throughout the country. In general, winter-spring rice has developed satisfactorily this year. Meanwhile, spring subsidiary and food crops have been planted behind schedule, except for sweet potatoes, which have exceeded the cultivation plan by 34 percent. Manioc, in particular, has been planted on only 34 percent of the planned area.

In the north, "due to relatively heavy rainfall last week, winter-spring rice in many localities—such as Ha Nam Ninh, Hai Hung, Ha Son Binh, Ha Bac, and Thanh Hoa—has been affected by waterlogging." These localities are now intensively protecting rice against waterlogging. "All localities in the south have harvested nearly 550,000 hectares of winter-spring rice, representing more than 50 percent of the cultivated area." Some provinces, such as An Giang and Dong Thap, have attained a rice yield of over five metric tons per hectare.

"Insects, especially cotton leaf rollers, have developed and caused serious harm in some provinces along the central coastline and in former zone 4, while rice leaf yellows has developed vigorously in the Mekong River Delta." In the next 10 days, all localities must ensure water for high-lying ricefields while intensively combating waterlogging to protect rice, peanuts, and soybeans. Attention must also be paid to preventing and eliminating insects and diseases, such as brown planthoppers, cotton leaf rollers, rice blast, and root suffocation disease.

Ho Chi Minh City Expands Foreign Trade

BK0304091390 Hanoi VNA in English 0726 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 3—Since its founding in October, 1988, the Investment Service Company of Ho Chi Minh City has helped 179 visiting foreign business teams explore investment opportunities or sign joint venture project documents with their Vietnamese partners in the city. So far, 25 such project documents have been signed with the company's mediation, mostly in the fields of production and processing of coffee, timber, floorboards, rattan and bamboo articles, sea products, farm produce, refrigeration engineering, etc.... The company has seven representative offices in Southeast Asia and Western Europe.

- The Orchid Export Company of Ho Chi Minh City has signed a contract for export of 400,000 branches of orchid to the Soviet Union this year. In the first quarter of this year, the company delivered from 10,000 to 50,000 branches per month. The company has also hybridized many new types of orchids for export to Japan and Thailand.
- The Vietnam-Soviet joint venture company named Sonteca and the Electric Power Company No. 2 have signed a contract in building a windmill power plant with a capacity of 2 mw [megawatts], the first of its kind in the seaside resort town of Vung Tau, 120 km east of Ho Chi Minh City.
- The Vissan company in Ho Chi Minh City plans to export 11,000 tonnes of pork to the Soviet Union this year. In the first quarter of this year, the company delivered 3,000 tonnes of pork to the Soviet Union.

Illegal Television Station Ordered Shut Down

BK0204090190 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] According to the Ministry of Information, the Van Phuc village television station in Ha Son Binh Province was built and has operated without a permit conforming with the law on the press. After conducting an inspection of the television station, the Ministry of Information and the Ministry of Interior requested that the provincial people's committee order the suspension of its operation. On 9 March, the Ha Son Binh provincial people's committee decided to shut down this television station.

On this occasion, the Ministry of Information has also reported that some research and production establishments have signed contracts with various localities for the installation of radio and television broadcast systems without a technical quality assessment of the State Science and Technology Commission's quality control board, and without the Ministry of Information's permission. The Ministry of Information has released documents instructing management organs in all localities to severely deal with various cases involving illegal operation of radio or television stations, perhaps by confiscating broadcast equipment, imposing fines, or lodging prosecution, depending on the seriousness of violations.

Swedish Committee Delegation Visits 27-30 Mar

*BK0204161790 Hanoi VNA in English 1545 GMT
2 Apr 90*

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 2—A delegation of the Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia Committee of Sweden led by its president Johan Peanberg, paid a visit to Vietnam from March 27-30.

The delegation, which comprised representatives of the Social Democratic Party, the Swedish Left Communist Party and the Central Party, had working sessions with the executive committee of the Vietnam-Sweden Friendship Association led by its president Prof. Dr. Nguyen Thu Nhan, director of the Olof Palme Institute for Children Healthcare, and visited the association's chapters, the electrical engineering plant, and the Bai Bang pulp and paper mill. Guests and hosts discussed measures aimed at strengthening their relations in the coming time.

The Swedish guests affirmed their committee's support for Vietnam's allround renovation aimed at making the country prosperous and the people happy. They said that when back home they would inform the Swedish Government and people of the Vietnamese people's achievements over the past years and the difficulties they were facing in the course of renovation and that they would do their best to strengthen cooperation with and assistance to the Vietnamese people.

The delegation was received by Nguyen Co Thach, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister for foreign affairs.

Indochinese Energy Cooperation Pacts Signed

*BK0304025890 Hanoi VNA in English 1640 GMT
2 Apr 90*

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 2—Le Liem, vice minister of energy of Vietnam and Khlot Randi, vice minister of industry of the State of Cambodia, signed here today minutes of a cooperation agreement between the two countries in the energy field.

The cooperation document provides that in the coming period the two sides will exchange study tours and set up

a joint working group for energy cooperation along the two countries' common border and the installation of a 220-kw line linking southern Vietnam with Phnom Penh.

Earlier, the Vietnam Electricity Company had signed with its Lao counterpart an agreement on cooperation in constructing, running and operating electricity works and grids.

Nguyen Van Linh Receives Outgoing GDR Envoy

*BK0204164890 Hanoi VNA in English 1536 GMT
2 Apr 90*

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 2—General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee Nguyen Van Linh this morning received Joachim Loeschner, ambassador of the German Democratic Republic, who paid him a farewell visit at the end of his term of office in Vietnam.

General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh had a cordial conversation with the outgoing GDR diplomat.

Also today, the GDR ambassador took leave of Vietnamese President Vo Chi Cong.

Greetings to Italian Communist Party Leaders

*BK3103153090 Hanoi VNA in English 1505 GMT
31 Mar 90*

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 31—General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee Nguyen Van Linh has sent his warm greetings to Aldo Tortorella and Achille Occhetto on their elections respectively as president and secretary general of the Communist Party of Italy.

The Vietnamese party leader expressed his wish for the further development of the solidarity between the communist parties and peoples of Vietnam and Italy.

Chinese Premier Receives Ambassador 29 Mar

*BK3103032090 Hanoi VNA in English 1730 GMT
30 Mar 90*

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 30—Premier of the Chinese State Council Li Peng received Vietnamese Ambassador to China Dang Nghiem Hoanh in Beijing on March 29.

The Vietnamese envoy conveyed Chairman of the Council of Ministers Do Muoi's regards to the Chinese premier, and expressed the Vietnamese Government's and people's desire for early restoration and development of the traditional friendship between the two peoples and for normalization of the relations between the two countries.

Premier Li Peng expressed his thanks to Chairman Do Muoi for his regards and welcomed the friendly words of the Vietnamese ambassador. He affirmed that the Chinese Government and people also wish and will try to

restore and develop the traditional friendship between the Chinese and Vietnamese peoples.

The reception took place in a cordial and friendly atmosphere and was also attended by Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister Qi Huaiyuan.

Correction to Ho Chi Minh Symposium Opens

BK3003163690

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Ho Chi Minh International Symposium Opens," published in the 30 March East Asia DAILY REPORT, page 67:

Paragraph one, only sentence, and paragraph two, only sentence, make read:

An international symposium titled "President Ho Chi Minh—Hero of National Liberation, Great Man of Culture" opened at the Ba Dinh Conference Hall this morning jointly by UNESCO and the Vietnamese Commission for Social Services.

Seventy-two scientists from 37 countries and international organizations and nearly 600 Vietnamese scientists and social activists attended the symposium. (rewording and changing numbers)